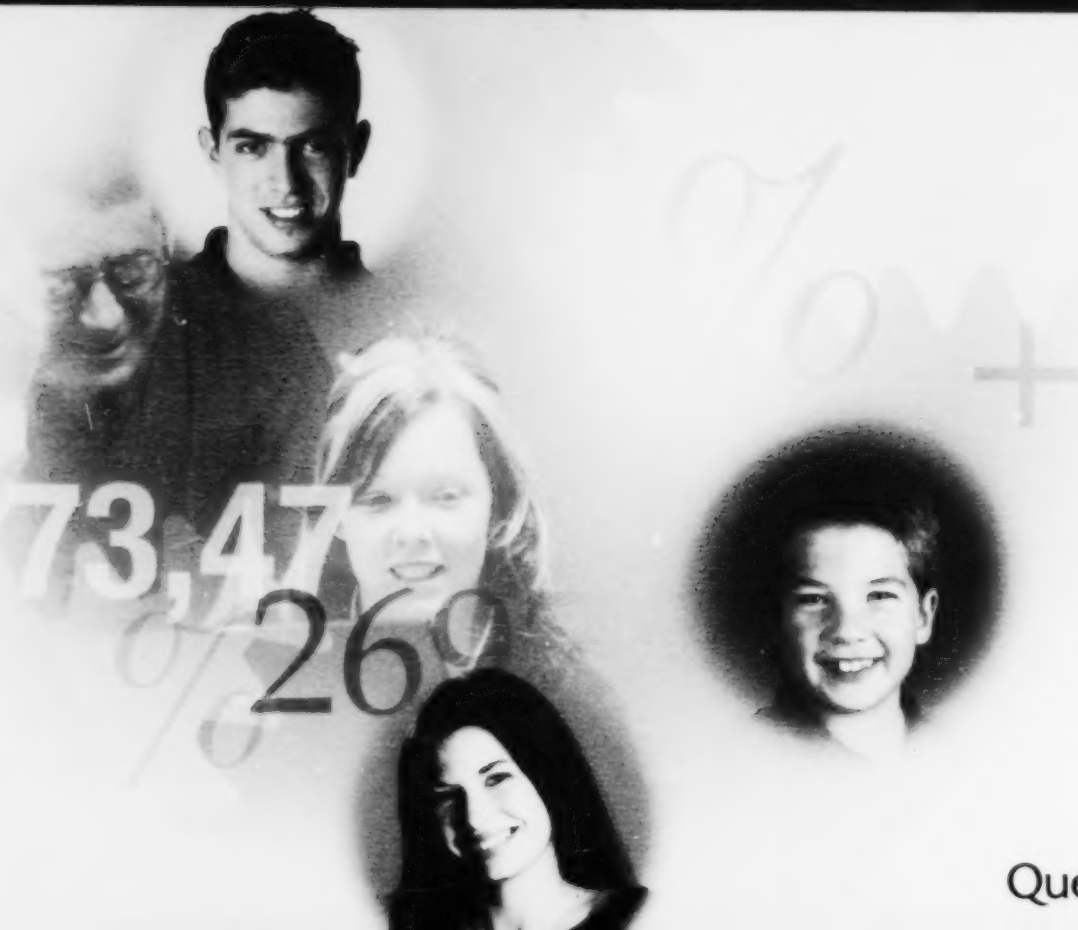


**EDUCATION INDICATORS** - 2007 edition





# EDUCATION INDICATORS - 2007 edition

**Ministère de l'Éducation,  
du Loisir et du Sport**  
Secteur de l'information,  
des communications  
et de l'administration

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# Introduction

This edition of the *Education Indicators* deals with all levels of education, from kindergarten to university. Some indicators cover the education system as a whole, whereas others focus on a specific level.

The purpose of publishing indicators is to ensure accountability by providing specific information on the resources allocated to education, the various activities pursued by the education system and the results obtained. The indicators are presented under a series of headings classifying recent and historical data that helps trace these developments over time.

The development of education indicators in Québec is part of a larger movement. The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) has undertaken projects to develop indicators for Canada's provinces; the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has done the same for its member countries, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has also published a series of indicators on education throughout the world. Québec has been an active participant in this worldwide movement, having published the first edition of the *Education Indicators* in 1986.

Examination of the indicators in this publication reveals a number of trends and developments that characterize Québec's education system. Some are explained briefly below. Additional information on these topics and others can be found further on in this booklet.

## Financial Resources Allocated to Education

In 2005-2006, Québec's total educational spending was estimated at 7.5% of the gross domestic product (GDP). The share of the GDP allocated to education in the rest of Canada was estimated at 6.3%, and in the United States, at 7.6%.

Total school board spending amounted to \$1 227 per capita in 2004-2005, or 13.4% less than the average for the rest of Canada (\$1 417). However, total per capita spending was higher in Québec's postsecondary institutions: \$270 and \$668 respectively, compared with \$208 and \$623 in the rest of Canada. In Québec, the provincial government provides a large part of the funds for total spending (almost 70%), whereas elsewhere in Canada, this proportion is much lower (slightly over 50%). In recent years, the Québec government has devoted a quarter of its program spending to education.

Another indicator that is often used to compare Québec with neighbouring regions is total per-student spending. In 2003-2004, total per-student spending in Québec school boards (\$8 465) was slightly higher than in the rest of Canada (\$8 457), despite the fact that educators' salaries in Québec (\$51 960) were considerably lower than the average for the other provinces (\$64 281). This can be explained in large part by the fact that the student-educator ratio is lower in Québec (14.1) than in the rest of Canada (16.6). This gap of 2.5 percentage points between the two ratios has had a major impact on the salary cost of educators.

Per-student operating expenses in CEGEPs were estimated at \$8 984 in 2005-2006, 34% higher than in 1998-1999. This major increase can be explained in large part by the decline in the student-teacher ratio, which went from 13.8 in 1998-1999 to 12.6 in 2005-2006. In addition, total per-student spending in Québec universities was estimated at \$26 951 in 2005-2006, 10.8% more than the average for the rest of Canada. The average salary of full-time university professors in Québec was lower than in the rest of Canada (\$90 609, compared with \$93 921 in 2004-2005), but this is partially offset by the lower average number of students per professor in Québec.

In 2005-2006, 132 351 persons benefited from Québec's Loans and Bursaries Program. Of the financial assistance granted, 61.2% was in the form of loans and 38.8%, in the form of bursaries. Tuition fees in 2006-2007 averaged \$1 916 in Québec for full-time undergraduate studies (\$1 668 for Québec residents), compared with \$5 046 in the rest of Canada.

### **Student Retention From Elementary School to University**

Student retention in Québec's education system for 2005-2006 is illustrated on the following page. The diagram represents the proportions of a cohort of young people who could expect to enroll and to obtain a diploma or degree in each level of education. The diagram shows that, in a generation of 100 persons, 100 could be expected to reach the secondary level and 86 to obtain a first secondary school diploma, 40 to obtain a Diploma of College Studies (DCS), 30 to earn a bachelor's degree, 9 to be awarded a master's degree, and 1 to obtain a doctorate. Of the 86 students to

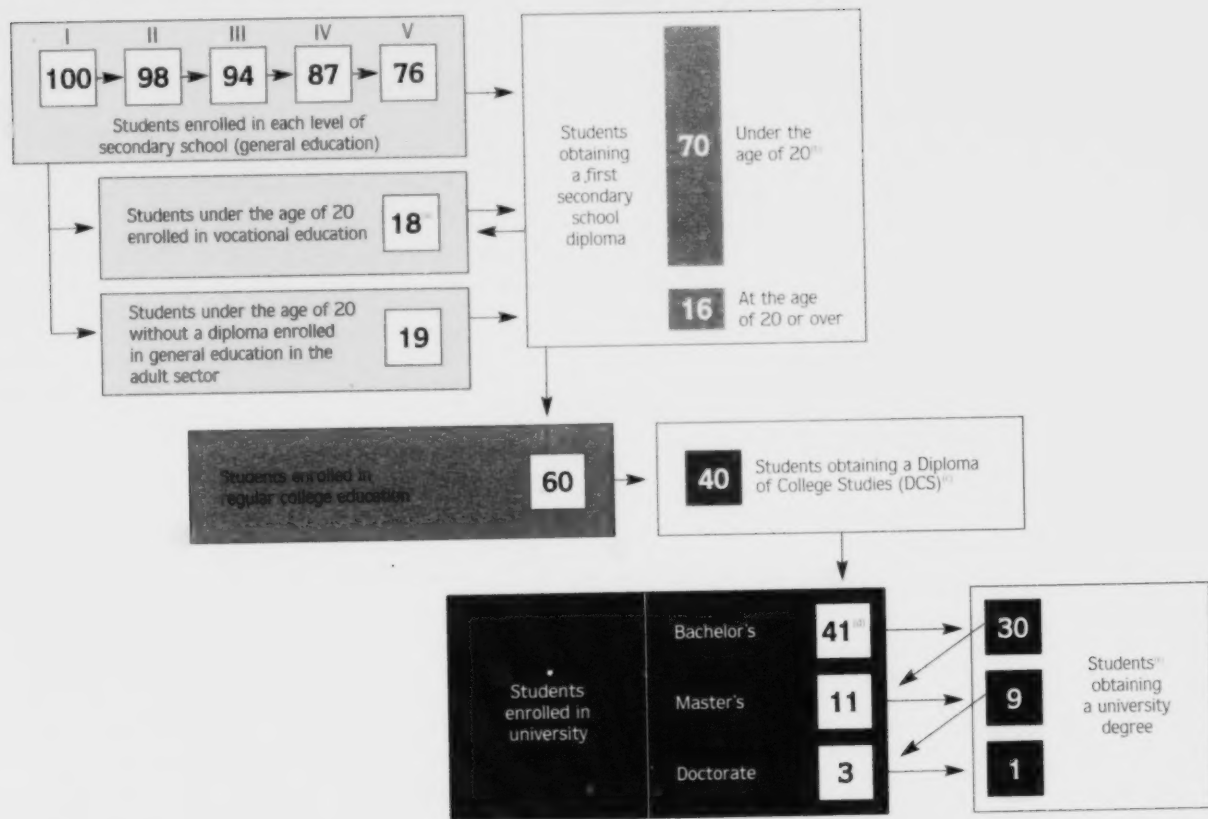
obtain a secondary school diploma, 32 would do so in vocational training. However, the educational playing field was far from level for the sexes in 2005-2006: more male students than female students (21% compared with 8%) left their studies before earning a diploma or degree. At the other extreme, in 2005, 38% of women obtained at least a bachelor's degree, compared with only 23% of men.

Objectives for the educational success of a greater number of Quebecers have been set: to have 85% of the students in a generation earn a secondary school diploma before the age of 20; 60%, a DCS; and 30%, a bachelor's degree.

Children who began elementary school in 2005-2006 can expect to be in school for 15.6 years (assuming that the success rates and retention rates prevailing in the education system in 2004-2005 do not change). Secondary school graduates will have been in school for 11.2 years, at an estimated cost of \$106 600 in 2004-2005; those obtaining a bachelor's degree will have studied for 17.2 years, at an estimated total cost of \$212 748.

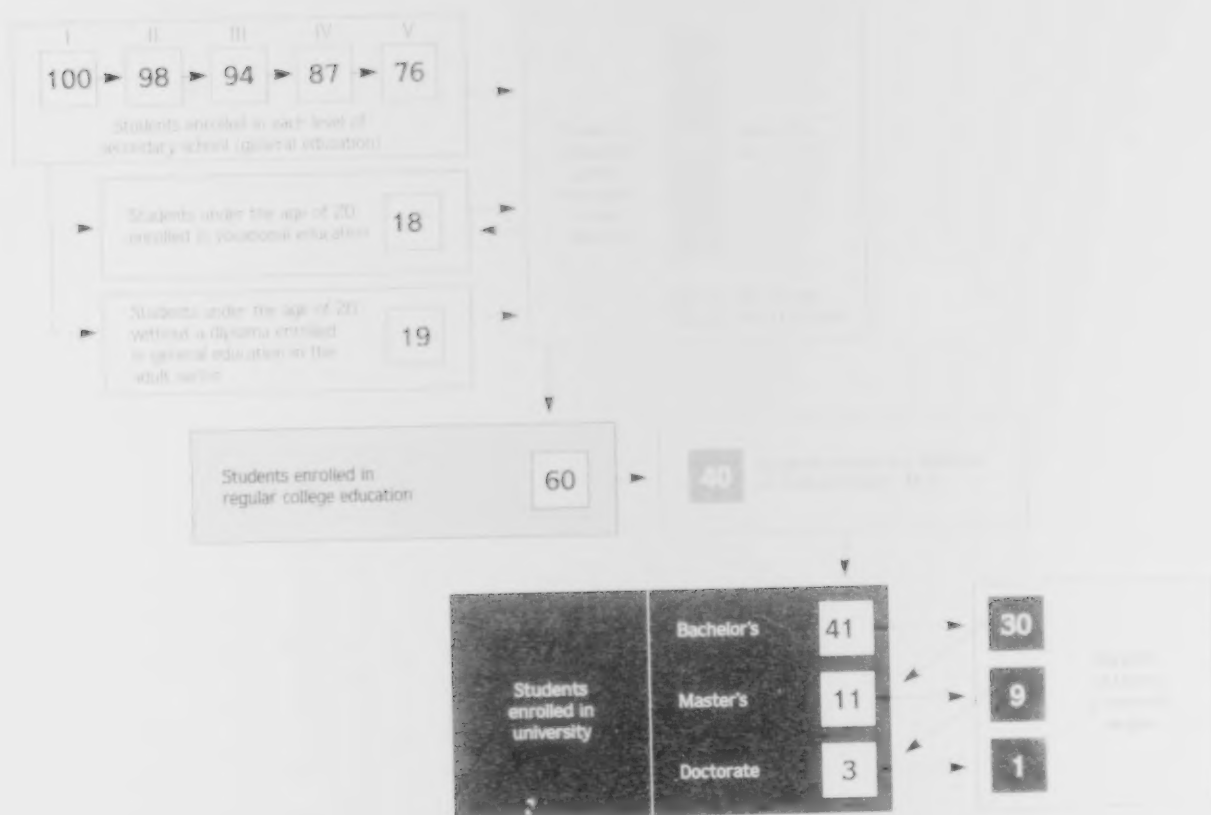


**Student Retention of 100 Quebecers in the Education System,  
Based on Findings for 2005-2006**



- (a) This figure includes 10 general education graduates likely to obtain another diploma in vocational training.  
 (b) All diplomas earned in the youth sector are included, regardless of the age of the graduates.  
 (c) The most recent year for which data is available is 2004-2005.  
 (d) Students who enroll in university are not limited to those who hold a DCS.  
 (e) The most recent year for which data is available is 2005.

# Student Retention of 100 Quebecers in the Education System Based on Findings for 2005-2006



## Staying in School and Obtaining a Diploma

The dropout issue is a major concern among educators. Numerous approaches have shed light on this phenomenon. Educational success, defined here as obtaining a diploma, is measured differently for each level and sector of education. The proportion of 19-year-olds who left school without a secondary school diploma was 19.7% in 2005.

The proportion of students in other education sectors who obtained diplomas or degrees and the proportion who left school either temporarily or permanently were determined by observing the number of students who leave school each year. Thus, of the students in Secondary Cycle Two in the adult sector who quit their studies before the age of 20, 62.1% did so with a diploma. In secondary vocational training, of 100 students of all ages who were enrolled in programs leading to a Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS) (known as the Secondary School Vocational Diploma [SSVD] prior to 1998) and who left secondary school, 73 did so with a diploma. At the college level, 72% of students in pre-university programs leading to a DCS obtained a diploma; in technical training, 62% of students obtained a DCS. At the university level, 68% of students leaving bachelor's programs did so with a degree. Of the students enrolled in master's and doctoral programs, 71% and 57%, respectively, earned their degree.

## Evaluation of Learning

In the subjects for which uniform examinations were administered for the certification of studies by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport in June 2006, students in Secondary IV and V obtained an average mark of 72.6% and had a success rate of 83.2%. The male students' average was 72.0% and the female students', 73.2%. Students obtained an average final mark of 71.6% on the examination in Secondary V French, language of instruction, and 86.6% passed. In 2005-2006, 81.1% of college students passed the ministerial examination of college French, language of instruction.

## What Becomes of Graduates

When they finish school, graduates from secondary school, college and university have to make choices. Some decide to continue their education, while others set their sights on the labour market. In 2004-2005, at the end of their college studies, 77.9% of pre-university program graduates under the age of 25 went on to university the following year, compared with 25.0% of graduates from technical programs.

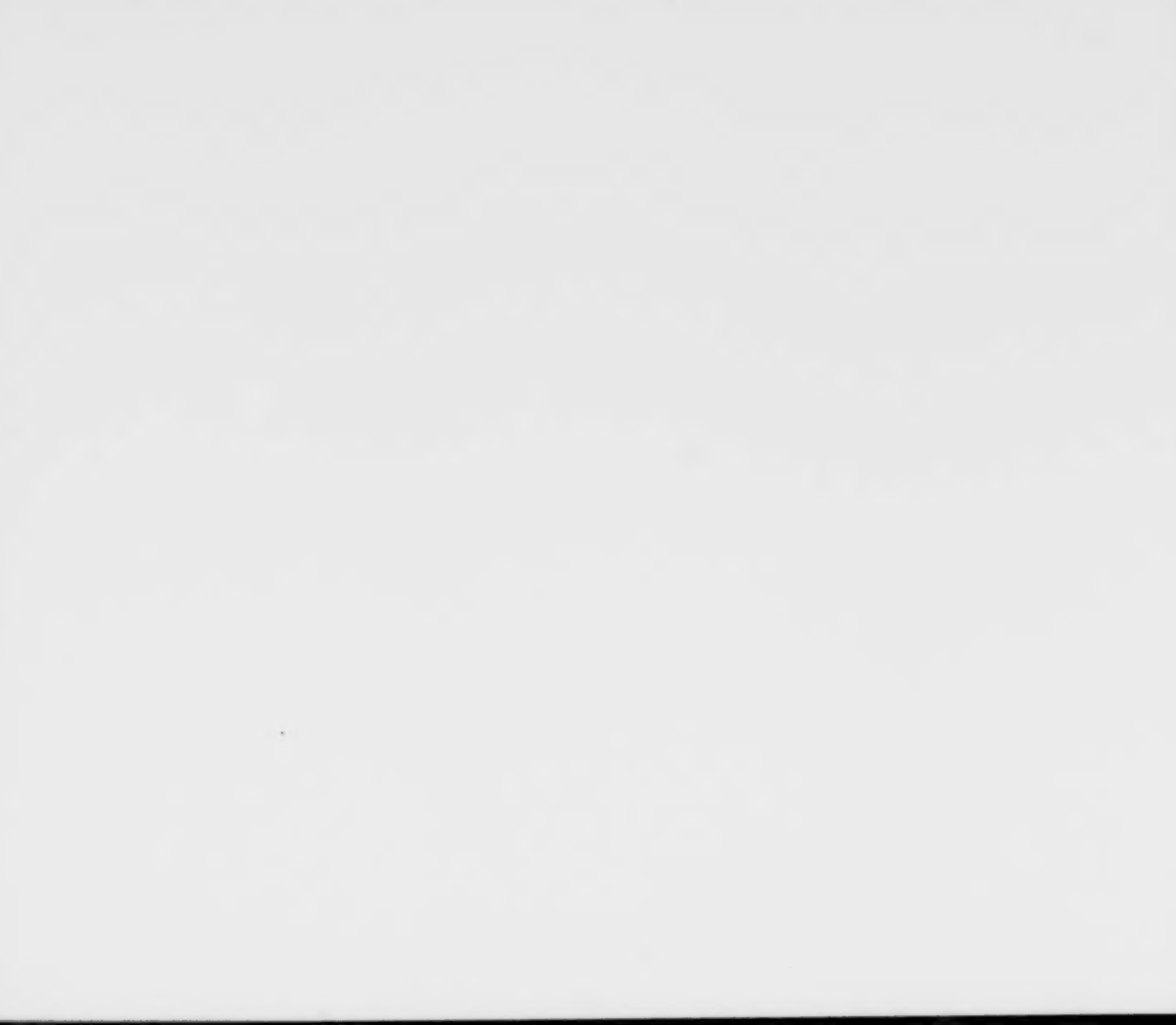
The unemployment rate in March 2006 was 10.8% and 9.8%, respectively, for graduates with a DVS or AVS, and 4.5% for graduates of college technical programs. Since 1990, the profile of the labour force in Québec has changed significantly. In 2006, the increase in the number of jobs was more beneficial to those who graduated from post-secondary or university studies. During the same period, the number of employed people who did not have a secondary school diploma dropped by 39.9%.

\*\*\*\*\*

Readers seeking a more in-depth analysis or an up-to-date picture of the situation should consult the individual sections in the pages that follow. The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport and the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation also produce and publish specialized studies on these topics. Finally, general information on the education system is available in the following publications:

- *Basic Statistics on Education*
- *Education Statistics Bulletins*
- *Student Flow from Secondary School to University*
- *Annual management report of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport*
- *Annual Report on the State and Needs of Education, published by the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation*
- *2005-2008 Strategic Plan of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport*

This information is also available on the Web site of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, at <[www.mels.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca)>.



# Québec's Education System: An Overview

Québec's education system offers a wide range of educational programs and services from kindergarten to university.

## Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education

Elementary school normally lasts six years; secondary school, five. Children are admitted to the first year of elementary school in the school year in which they will have turned 6 years of age by October 1. Kindergarten is not compulsory, but, as of the fall of 1997, almost all 5-year-olds attend full-time. Four-year-olds with handicaps or living in low-income areas may be admitted to preschool. School attendance is compulsory until the year in which students turn 16 years of age, which normally corresponds to Secondary IV.

Elementary education is offered in French, English or a Native language, and secondary education, in French or English. Students deemed eligible to study in English are chiefly those whose father or mother attended English elementary school in Canada. Public elementary and secondary education is provided by school boards. The school boards are managed by school commissioners, who are elected by residents in the territory under the school board's jurisdiction. The school boards hire the staff they need to provide educational services. In 2005-2006, the Québec government funded 76% of school board operating expenses, while local taxes accounted for 15% of school board revenues, and other sources provided the remaining 9%.

In July 1998, the number of school boards was reduced to 72, and they were organized along linguistic lines, except for three with special status. There are 60 French school boards and 9 English school boards, with enrollments ranging from 725 to 72 000, for a median size of approximately 8 700 students. The special-status school boards serve French-speaking and English-speaking students in the Côte-Nord region (Commission scolaire du Littoral) and Native students in the Nord-du-Québec region (Cree School Board and Kativik School Board).

Elementary and secondary education is also provided by private institutions, some of which are subsidized by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport. The private school system accounts for 6% of elementary students and approximately 18% of secondary students in the youth sector. About half of the operating expenses of subsidized private institutions are funded by the Québec government. Elementary and secondary education is also offered by some public institutions that are not part of the school board system but that fall under Québec or federal government jurisdiction; these institutions account for 0.1% of students.

Secondary school diplomas are awarded by the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports to students who fulfill the certification requirements set by the Minister. A Secondary School Diploma (SSD) is required for admission to college.<sup>1</sup> A Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS) (known as the Secondary School Vocational Diploma [SSVD] prior to 1998) generally leads to the labour market, but also allows admission to college. The harmonization of educational services offered in the youth sector and the adult sector is a feature of Quebec's education system. Adult education leads to secondary school diplomas that are the same as or equivalent to those offered in the youth sector.

### College Education

Students may enroll in college programs leading to a Diploma of College Studies (DCS) or in short technical programs leading to an Attestation of College Studies (ACS). College education theoretically consists of a two-year program for students enrolled in pre-university education or a three-year program for those in technical training; technical programs aim primarily at entry into the labour market, but also allow admission to certain disciplines in university.

<sup>1</sup> Since the fall of 1997, students who earned a Secondary School Diploma (SSD) or a Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS) after May 31, 1997, must also have accumulated the required number of credits for Secondary IV history and physical science, Secondary V language of instruction and second language, and Secondary V mathematics or a comparable Secondary IV mathematics course determined by the Minister. In the case of certain programs leading to a DCS determined by the Minister, graduates with a DVS may be admitted to college in order to pursue their studies without interruption. Finally, the Minister sets specific secondary level prerequisites for some programs leading to a DCS.

Students may pursue their college studies in the language of instruction of their choice. Public college education is provided by CEGEPs (a French acronym that stands for general and technical college). CEGEPs are administered by boards of directors composed of representatives of the socioeconomic community appointed by the Minister, as well as representatives of parents, students, teachers, nonteaching professionals and support staff, a director-general and a director of studies. In 2005-2006, the Quebec government funded 87% of CEGEP operating expenses. Private educational institutions served 7% of college students, and 56% of their expenses were funded by the government. College education is also available at a few institutions associated with ministries other than the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport and by the Macdonald Campus of McGill University.

A DCS is awarded to a student by the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports following the recommendation of the institution attended. For shorter programs, other types of certification are awarded.

### University Education

Quebec has English and French universities; students are free to attend the university of their choice. University education is divided into three levels of studies. The first leads to a bachelor's degree (generally after three years or, less frequently, four years in certain programs), the second to a master's degree, and the third to a doctoral degree. Universities also award certificates, diplomas and other forms of attestation to certify the successful completion of short programs. In 2005-2006, 54% of university expenses were subsidized by the Québec government.

### **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport**

The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport fulfills different functions for the various levels of education. For preschool, elementary, secondary and college education, the Ministère develops programs and determines objectives and often content or standards. In terms of labour relations, it negotiates and signs provincial agreements. In terms of financing, it establishes a standard framework and provides the largest share of resources. At the university level, it promotes the advancement of teaching and research by providing universities with the resources required for operation and development while respecting their autonomy and fostering collaboration among the various partners.



## 1.1 Government Spending on Education, Recreation and Sports in Québec

Spending on education, recreation and sports in Québec was estimated at \$12.8 billion in 2006-2007, accounting for 25.2% of government program spending.<sup>1</sup>

Québec government program spending rose from \$43.9 billion to \$50.9 billion between 2002-2003 and 2006-2007, an increase of \$7.0 billion.

Table 1.1 presents Québec government program spending in the four major sectors: Education, Recreation and Sports; Health and Social Services; Employment and Social Solidarity; and Families, Seniors and the Status of Women. Spending on other portfolios and programs are grouped together under "Other Portfolios." The table makes it possible to compare changes in the portion of government spending allocated to education, recreation and sports with those in the other major sectors.

A comparison of program spending in the major sectors during the period considered reveals significant changes in the portion of spending allocated to each sector. The portion allocated to health and social services increased from 35.6% in 1992-1993 to 43.5% in 2006-2007, while the portion allocated to families, seniors and the status of women rose from 0.9% to 3.4% during the same period.

The portion of spending allocated to employment and social solidarity rose during the 1990s, then decreased to settle at 7.9% in 2006-2007. Education, recreation and sports and other portfolios also saw a decrease in the portion of program spending allocated to them. Between 1992 and 1998, the portion of government program spending allocated to education, recreation and sports dropped 3.3 percentage points, from 29.2% to 25.9%. This decrease was in large part due to budget cuts and strict cost-cutting measures in educational institutions.

The portion of program spending allocated to education, recreation and sports varied only slightly between 1998 and 2006, and was 25.2% in 2006-2007. While this proportion is slightly lower than that observed in 1998-1999 (25.9%), it is important to note that the actual amount of financial resources allocated to education, recreation and sports in 2006-2007 (25.2%) was \$12.8 billion, or \$3.2 billion more than in 1998-1999 (a 33% increase).

The \$3.2-billion increase in spending in education, recreation and sports since 1998 can be partly explained by additional spending in education, agreements between the Québec government and the unions concerning the gradual restructuring of salary scales for school personnel (pay equity) and the numerous support measures for educational institutions.<sup>2</sup> Note that the considerable increase in university enrollments during this period contributed significantly to the increase in spending in education.

Government spending on education, recreation and sports in Québec was estimated at \$12.8 billion in 2006-2007, \$1.6 billion more than in 2002-2003.

1. The amount allocated to the development of recreation and sports was \$67 million in 2006-2007.

2. See Sections 1.7 and 1.11.

Table 1.1  
**Québec  
 government  
 program spending,  
 by sector<sup>1</sup> (%)**

	1992- 1993	1995- 1996	1998- 1999	2001- 2002	2004- 2005	2006- 2007 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Education, recreation and sports</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>25.2</b>
Health and social services	35.6	36.1	39.3	40.9	42.1	43.5
Employment and social solidarity	10.2	11.1	11.2	9.7	8.6	7.9
Families, seniors and the status of women	0.9	1.2	1.6	2.7	3.2	3.4
Other portfolios	24.1	22.5	22.0	21.3	21.4	20.0
Program spending	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

a. Estimates

1. Data related to program spending is presented according to the 2006-2007 budgetary structure.

Graph 1.1  
**Distribution of  
 Québec government  
 program spending,  
 by sector (%)**

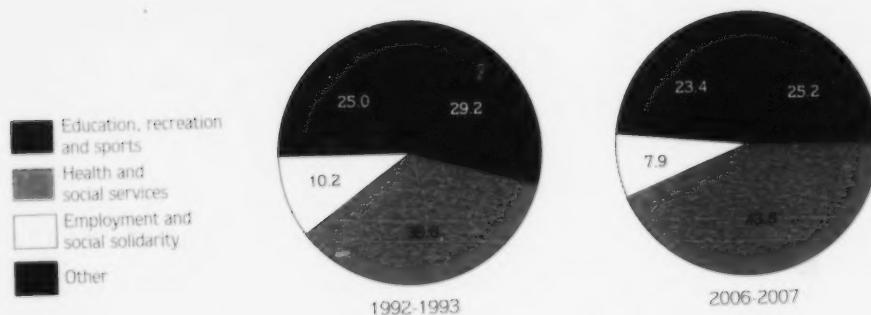


Figure 7.1  
Quebec  
government  
program spending,  
by sector (%)

	1992- 1993	1995- 1996	1998- 1999	2001- 2002	2004- 2005	2006- 2007
Education, recreation and sports	29.2	29.1	25.9	25.4	24.7	25.2
Health and social services	35.0	36.1	34.2	43.0	45.1	43.5
Employment and social assistance, housing	11.2	11.1	11.4	9.2	8.6	8.9
Family, children and the status of women	1.0	1.2	1.5	2.2	3.2	3.4
Other programs	24.6	22.5	25.9	20.2	20.4	20.0
Program spending	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Figure 8.1  
Distribution of  
Quebec government  
program spending,  
by sector (%)



## 1.2 Total Educational Spending in Relation to the GDP

In 2005-2006, Québec allocated 7.5% of its gross domestic product (GDP) to education,<sup>1</sup> compared with the Atlantic Provinces at 7.6%, Ontario at 6.3% and Western Canada at 6.0%. The United States spent 7.6% of its GDP on education. When this indicator is considered, it is evident that Québec educational spending remains higher than the average for the other provinces, while it is almost equivalent to that of the United States.

Between 1993 and 2000, the share of the GDP spent on education decreased in all regions of Canada, in particular because of budget cuts. In Québec it dropped from 8.9% to 7.7%, and in the rest of Canada, from 7.6% to 6.3%. In the United States, however, it increased slightly and stood at 7.5% in 2000-2001.

If the share of the GDP allocated to education in Québec is compared with that allocated by the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2003, Québec is among those with the highest educational spending. This is primarily because teaching costs are relatively higher in Québec than the OECD average. The fact that postsecondary education is more developed in Québec than in the OECD countries also helps explain Québec's higher level of educational spending.<sup>2</sup>

To explain why Québec invested a greater share of its GDP in education than the rest of Canada in 2005-2006, the following four factors can be considered: per-student spending; collective wealth (defined by the per capita GDP); the school attendance rate (the ratio of total school enrollment to the population between 5 and 24 years old); and the demographic factor (the ratio of the 5-24 age group to the total population). Three of these factors help explain why Québec invests a greater share of its GDP in education: per-student spending, which is higher in Québec than in the rest of Canada; the slightly higher school attendance rate in Québec; and Québec's lesser collective wealth. Only the demographic factor (older population in Québec) had the opposite effect.

The higher per-student spending in Québec is due mainly to lower student-teacher ratios at every level of education and to greater capital expenses and financing costs, university research, and school childcare services and transportation. There is also an important point to be made about the difference between per-

student spending in Québec and in the rest of Canada; it concerns differences in the cost of living. The cost of living is lower in Québec than in the rest of Canada (about 10% lower in 2005-2006) and, if expenses are adjusted to take this into account, the difference is even more marked.

In 2005-2006, the share of the GDP allocated to education was higher in Québec than in the rest of Canada. However, compared with the situation that prevailed in the early 1980s, the gap has narrowed.

1. In 2005-2006, Québec spent \$20.7 billion of its \$274.9 billion GDP on education. The concept of total spending used in this section is defined at the bottom of Table 1.2. This concept is more inclusive than the one used in Section 1.1, which takes into account only government spending.

2. See Marius Demers, "Educational Spending Relative to the GDP in 2001: A comparison of Québec and the OECD Countries," Education Statistics Bulletin 31 (Québec: Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Direction de la recherche, des statistiques et des indicateurs), September 2005. This document is available on the Internet at <<http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/stat/index.htm>>. An update to 2003 is available.

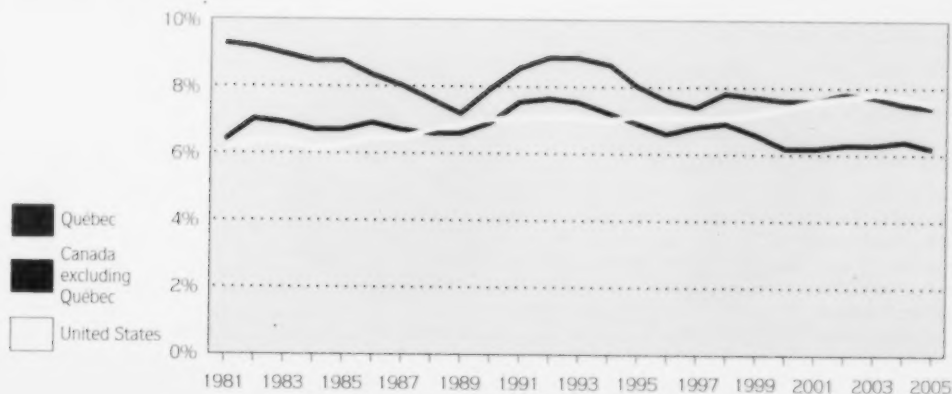
Table 1.2  
Total educational  
spending<sup>1</sup> in relation  
to the GDP:  
Québec, other regions  
of Canada, and the  
United States (%)

	1981- 1982	1989- 1990	1993- 1994	2000- 2001	2004- 2005 <sup>e</sup>	2005- 2006 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Québec</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>7.5</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Atlantic Provinces	10.5	9.3	9.8	8.2	7.9	7.6
Ontario	6.5	6.2	7.4	5.8	6.2	6.3
Western Canada	5.7	6.6	7.1	6.5	6.5	6.0
<b>Canada</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>United States</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>7.6</b>

<sup>e</sup> Estimates

1. Total educational spending includes the operating and capital expenses of all levels of public and private education, the Ministère's administrative expenses, government contributions to employee pension plans, the cost of student financial assistance and other education expenses (as defined by Statistics Canada).

Graph 1.2  
Total educational  
spending in relation  
to the GDP: Québec,  
Canada excluding  
Québec, and the  
United States (%)



# 1.3 Total Educational Spending<sup>1</sup> Per Capita in School Boards, Colleges and Universities

In 2004-2005, total spending per capita was lower in Québec school boards (\$1 227) than in the rest of Canada (\$1 417), but higher in Québec colleges (\$270) than in the rest of Canada (\$208). It was also higher in Québec universities (\$668 compared with \$623).

Table 1.3a shows the data on total spending per capita by level of education in 2004-2005. The differences in total per capita spending observed between regions for a given level of education are explained in part by the organizational differences between the education systems. Thus, the fact that total per capita spending in Québec school boards is lower than in the rest of Canada (with the exception of the Atlantic Provinces), is explained in part by the shorter duration of studies in Québec (11 years in Québec and normally 12 years in the rest of Canada). Conversely, total spending per capita at the college level is higher in Québec than in the rest of Canada, because of the unique characteristics of our college network (including the mandatory two years of college before entering university).<sup>2</sup>

Table 1.3b shows data on the direct sources of funds for total educational spending in 2002-2003 (the most recent data available). These figures indicate that, in Québec, provincial subsidies make up a large part of the financing for education (68.8%). This percentage is higher than in the Atlantic Provinces (66.7%), Ontario (49.5%) and Western Canada (54.3%).

In the other provinces, financing sources other than the government play a larger role for one or more of the following reasons: local funding is more significant, tuition fees are higher, or the educational institutions in the other regions are in a better position to obtain other sources of funding.<sup>3</sup>

In 2006-2007, university students in Québec paid tuition fees that were 38% (\$1 916) of the amount charged in Ontario (\$5 046).<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, unlike in Québec, students in the other provinces enrolled at a level equivalent to college are usually required to pay tuition fees. Thus, on average in 2004-2005, most students enrolled full-time in programs leading to a diploma or certificate in a technical college in Ontario were required to pay approximately \$1 900 a year in tuition fees.<sup>5</sup> This amount does not include other compulsory fees, textbooks or supplies.

In 2004-2005, total spending per capita in Québec school boards was lower than in the rest of Canada; the reverse was true for colleges and universities.

1. Total educational spending includes the operating and capital expenses, research costs (for universities) and interest on debt service (but not repayment of principal), as defined by Statistics Canada. The concept of expense in this section differs from that used in previous editions of the Education Indicators because certain data is no longer produced by Statistics Canada.
2. Regarding the organizational differences at the college level, see Section 1.4.
3. It must be noted, however, that there are comparatively more private schools in Québec than in the rest of Canada, and that tuition fees paid to the schools are included in the other sources of funding.
4. Tuition fees for students residing in Québec are \$1 668 per year. See Note 1 at the bottom of Table 1.16.
5. Some programs involve higher tuition fees (14% of students pay between \$2 000 and \$6 000, while less than 1% pay between \$6 000 and \$11 000).

Table 1.3a  
Total spending  
per capita in school  
boards, colleges and  
universities: Québec  
and the other regions  
of Canada, 2004-2005\*  
(in current dollars)

	School boards	Colleges <sup>1</sup>	Universities
<b>Québec</b>	<b>1 227</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>668</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>1 417</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>623</b>
Atlantic Provinces	1 224	171	684
Ontario	1 493	181	630
Western Canada	1 357	246	600
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1 372</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>634</b>

Table 1.3b  
Direct sources of funds  
for total educational  
spending: Québec and  
the other regions of  
Canada, 2002-2003 (%)

	Provincial government	Federal government	Local government	Other sources	Total
<b>Québec</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Atlantic Provinces	66.7	12.1	3.0	18.2	100.0
Ontario	49.5	6.9	21.7	21.9	100.0
Western Canada	54.3	10.0	16.7	19.0	100.0
<b>Canada</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

e: Estimates

1. Regarding the organizational differences at the college level, see Section 1.4.

Graph 1.3  
Direct sources of funds  
for total educational  
spending: Québec,  
and Canada excluding  
Québec, 2002-2003 (%)

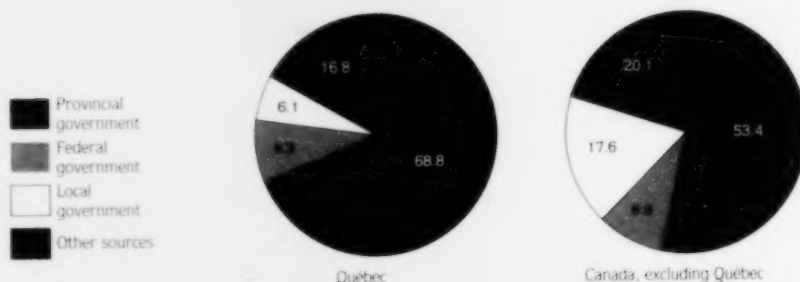


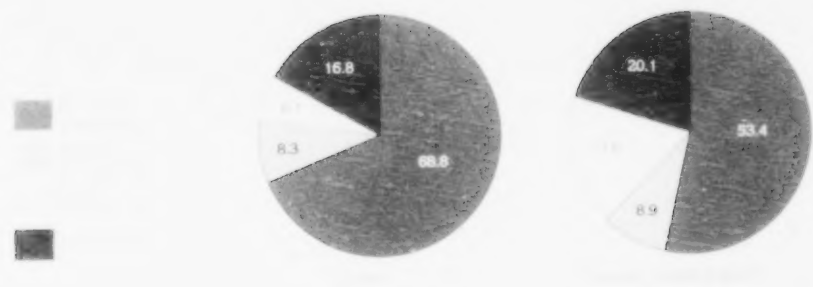
Table 1.3  
Total spending  
per capita in school  
boards, colleges and  
universities: Quebec  
and the other regions  
of Canada, 2004-2005  
(in current dollars)

	School boards	Colleges	Universities
Quebec	1 227	270	668
Canada, excluding Québec	1 417	208	623
Atlantic Provinces	1 204	171	684
Ontario	1 140	181	630
Western Canada	1 367	246	680
Canada	1 372	222	634

Table 1.4  
Direct sources of funds  
for total educational  
spending: Quebec and  
the other regions of  
Canada, 2002-2003 (%)

	Provincial government	Federal government	Local government	Other sources	Total
Quebec	68.8	8.3	6.1	16.8	100.0
Canada, excluding Québec	53.4	8.9	17.6	20.1	100.0
Atlantic Provinces	36.7	12.1	2.0	49.2	100.0
Ontario	34.5	15.9	11.7	37.9	100.0
Western Canada	54.7	11.0	18.7	15.6	100.0
Canada	57.0	8.8	14.9	19.3	100.0

Figure 1.1  
Direct sources of funds  
for total educational  
spending: Quebec  
and Canada excluding  
Quebec, 2002-2003 (%)





## 1.4 Total Educational Spending per Student<sup>1</sup> in Relation to Per Capita GDP

**T**otal per-student spending is an indicator of financial investment in education, and the per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is an indicator of collective wealth. Relating the two provides an indicator of the relative financial investment in education, that is, per-student spending expressed as a percentage of the per capita GDP. In addition to each region's ability to pay, this ratio takes into account differences in the cost of living.

In 2003-2004, total per-student spending at the elementary and secondary levels (\$8 465) was higher in Québec than in the Atlantic Provinces (\$7 748) and in Western Canada (\$8 397), but lower than in Ontario (\$8 629). Per-student spending is essentially the same in Québec and as the average for the rest of Canada, despite the fact that salaries for school personnel are lower in Québec. This is due mainly to lower student-teacher ratios and greater spending on childcare services and school transportation.<sup>2</sup>

In 2003-2004, total per-student spending at the college level was higher in Québec (\$13 588) than in Ontario (\$13 238), but lower than in the Atlantic Provinces (\$13 602) and Western Canada (\$14 675). The comparisons of spending at the college level are provided as a reference only, since this level cannot truly be compared between provinces because of significant organizational differences. For example, in Québec, a Diploma of College Studies in pre-university education is the usual requirement for admission to university, whereas in the other provinces, a secondary school diploma is generally sufficient. In Ontario, college-level technical programs are offered at colleges of applied arts and technology. In some cases, the programs offered can be compared, to a certain extent, with vocational training programs offered by Québec school boards. More often, they are comparable to the technical training programs offered by Québec CEGEPs. Furthermore, in some provinces in Western Canada (especially Alberta and British Columbia), students can do their first two years of university studies in a college, and then finish their studies at a university.

Total per-student spending at the university level in 2005-2006 was higher in Québec (\$26 951) than in Ontario (\$22 563) and in the Atlantic Provinces (\$20 762), but lower than in Western Canada (\$28 879). The previously mentioned organizational differences partly explain the gaps observed between the regions.<sup>3</sup>

Table 1.4b shows total per-student spending in relation to the per capita GDP. Factoring in collective wealth, as measured by the per capita GDP, reveals that Québec's collective financial investment in education is higher than the average for the rest of Canada.

Québec's collective investment in education is higher than the average for the rest of Canada.

1. Total educational spending includes the operating and capital expenses, research costs (for universities) and interest on debt service (but not repayment of principal), as defined by Statistics Canada. The concept of expense in this section differs from that used in previous editions of the Education Indicators because certain data is no longer produced by Statistics Canada. Moreover, in the calculation of total per-student spending at the college and university levels, a standardized accounting of student enrollment for all the provinces based on the following convention has been used: part-time enrollments are converted into full-time equivalents by dividing them by 3.5, and they are then added to the full-time enrollments.

2. See Section 1.8 for additional explanations.

3. See Section 1.14 for additional explanations.

Table 1.4a

Total per-student  
educational spending:  
Québec and the other  
regions of Canada (\$)

	School boards 2003-2004	Colleges <sup>a</sup> 2003-2004	Universities 2005-2006 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Québec</b>	<b>8 465</b>	<b>13 588</b>	<b>26 951</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>8 457</b>	<b>13 992</b>	<b>24 323</b>
Atlantic Provinces	7 748	13 602	20 762
Ontario	8 629	13 238	22 563
Western Canada	8 397	14 675	28 879
<b>Canada</b>	<b>8 459</b>	<b>13 848</b>	<b>24 927</b>

Table 1.4b

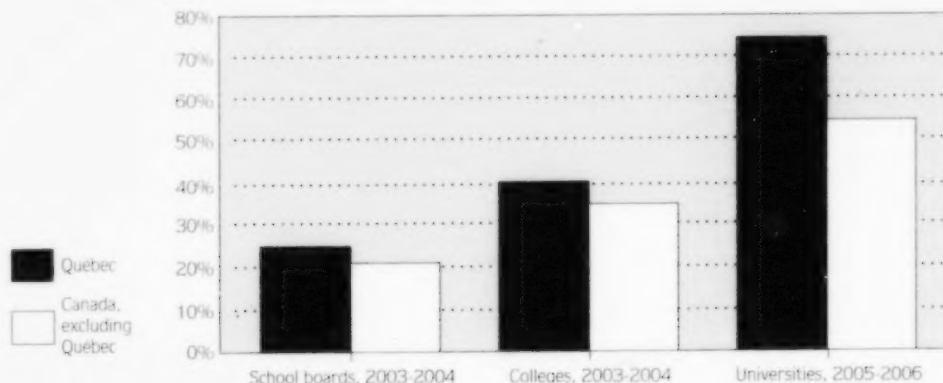
Total per-student  
educational spending  
in relation to the per  
capita GDP: Québec  
and other regions  
of Canada (%)

	School boards 2003-2004	Colleges <sup>a</sup> 2003-2004	Universities 2005-2006 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Québec</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>74.5</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>54.9</b>
Atlantic Provinces	24.9	43.7	60.2
Ontario	21.4	32.9	52.6
Western Canada	20.3	35.5	59.7
<b>Canada</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>58.8</b>

a: Estimates

Graph 1.4

Total per-student  
educational spending  
in relation to the per  
capita GDP: Québec,  
and Canada excluding  
Québec (%)



## 1.5 Cost of Educating Graduates

In 2004-2005, the total cost of a secondary school diploma was estimated at \$106 600, of a college-level pre-university or technical diploma, at \$132 946 and \$169 170, respectively, and of a bachelor's degree, at \$212 748.

The concept of cost used here includes operating expenses (excluding funded research), capital expenses of educational institutions, the Ministère's administrative expenses, government contributions to employee pension plans, the cost of financial assistance to students, and other education expenses. For graduates with a Secondary School Diploma (SSD), the cost is based on all the years during which school was attended at the preschool, elementary (regular) and secondary (general) levels. For students graduating with a Diploma of College Studies (DCS) in pre-university education, the cost is based on all the years attended at the preschool, elementary (regular), secondary (general) and college (pre-university) levels. For students graduating with a DCS in technical training, the cost is based on all the years attended at the preschool, elementary (regular), secondary (general) and college (technical) levels. For graduates with a bachelor's degree, the cost is based on all the years attended at the preschool, elementary (regular), secondary (general), college (pre-university) and undergraduate levels.

To calculate the cost of educating a graduate, an estimate of the annual spending per student at each level of education in 2004-2005<sup>1</sup>, as well as the average duration of studies completed by students who obtained the diploma or degree was used.<sup>2</sup> The expenses incurred by students leaving school without a diploma or degree were not taken into account.

As noted in Section 1.3, government subsidies make up a large part of the funding for education. However, the government also reaps a large portion of the benefits related to the earning of diplomas or degrees.

When we compare the income of two individuals with different levels of schooling, we usually observe that the person with the higher level of education is the one with the higher income (see

Graph 1.5). This extra income benefits not only the person with the higher level of education, but society as well. In fact, through taxation, governments recover a large portion of the extra income earned by the individual with the higher level of education. There are, however, a number of other public benefits in addition to the supplementary tax income produced by an increase in the number of graduates. For example, people with a higher level of education cost less to society in terms of the use of certain public services (such as last resort financial assistance and costs related to criminal activity). There is also a positive relationship between a person's level of education and state of health.<sup>3</sup>

**In 2004-2005, the total cost of a bachelor's degree was approximately \$213 000 in Québec.**

1. Here, the university level encompasses undergraduate, graduate and doctoral studies. The cost of studies leading to a bachelor's degree is therefore slightly overestimated.
2. At the university level, one year of studies equals two full-time terms. A part-time term is counted as one third of a full-time term at the university level and one quarter at the college level. See Note 1 at the bottom of Table 1.5.
3. See Marius Demers, "The Return on a Bachelor's Degree," Education Statistics Bulletin 32 (Québec: Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Direction de la recherche, des statistiques et des indicateurs), September 2005. This document is available on the Internet at <<http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/stat/index.htm>>.

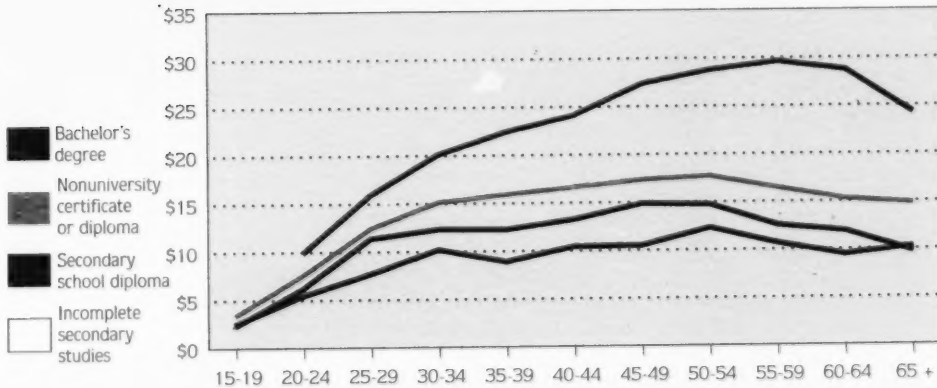
Table 1.5  
**Cost of educating  
 graduates.  
 2004-2005**

	Average duration of studies <sup>1</sup> (years)	Cost of education (\$)°
Secondary School Diploma	11.2	106 600
Diploma of College Studies		
Pre-university education	13.6	132 946
Technical training	15.0	169 170
Bachelor's degree	17.2	212 748

e: Estimates

1. Preschool education is included in the cost but not in the average duration of studies indicated in the table, since it is not generally recognized as a year of academic pursuit. The actual durations indicated in the table are longer than the theoretical durations for a number of reasons, including students having to retake a course after failing it and changes made to a program while students are enrolled in it.

Graph 1.5  
**Average hourly wage,  
 by age group and  
 highest level of  
 education achieved,  
 (averages, in \$, for  
 the first 11 months  
 of 2006)**



## 1.6 Total School Board Spending in Relation to the GDP

In 2004-2005, it was estimated that 3.5% of Québec's gross domestic product (GDP) was spent in school boards,<sup>1</sup> compared with the Atlantic Provinces at 3.8%, Ontario at 3.6% and Western Canada at 3.1%. In the United States, the share of the GDP allocated to public elementary and secondary education was estimated at 4.2%. Québec therefore spent a slightly larger share of its GDP in school boards than the rest of Canada, even though the duration of elementary and secondary education in Québec is shorter.<sup>2</sup>

Previous editions of the *Education Indicators* showed that during the 1980s, the share of the GDP allocated to elementary and secondary education decreased in Québec, while it remained stable in the rest of Canada (as a whole) and rose in the United States. The gap of 1.7 percentage points recorded in 1981-1982 between Québec and the rest of Canada narrowed steadily in subsequent years and disappeared almost entirely in 1989-1990. That same year, the share of the GDP spent on elementary and secondary education in Québec was slightly higher than in the United States. The fact that Québec has now reached the North American average can be explained largely by the more restrictive measures adopted by the Québec government to control spending during that period.

Between 1989 and 1993, a period of economic recession, the share of the GDP allocated to education rose almost everywhere in Canada and the United States, such that, in 1993-1994, Québec spent a slightly higher percentage of its GDP on elementary and secondary education than the rest of Canada.

Between 1993 and 1997, the share of the GDP spent on elementary and secondary education decreased in Québec and the other provinces, following budget cuts to school boards. In the United States, it remained essentially stable.

Since 1997-1998, in spite of a major reinvestment in education in Québec, the share of the GDP spent in school boards decreased (see Table 1.6). This is due primarily to the fact that, despite a large increase in Québec's per-student spending, the per capita GDP also rose significantly. During this period, Québec's student enrollments also dropped. Elsewhere in Canada, per-student spending rose at a slower rate than the per capita GDP and this in large part explains why the GDP allocated to elementary and secondary education decreased in the other provinces. In the United States, spending on public elementary and secondary education accounted for 4.2% of the GDP in 2004-2005.

When the share of Québec's GDP spent on elementary and secondary education is compared with that of the OECD countries in 2003, Québec ranked slightly below the average for the OECD countries considered, despite the fact that its per-student spending was slightly higher.<sup>3</sup> This can be explained primarily by the structural differences between education systems. For example, preschool services are more extensive in many OECD countries (children are admitted at the age of three) than in Québec, and the duration of elementary and secondary education in Québec is shorter than in the rest of the world.<sup>4</sup>

In 2004-2005, Québec spent a slightly larger share of its GDP in school boards than the rest of Canada.

1. In 2004-2005, Québec spent \$9.3 billion of its \$265.1-billion GDP in school boards. The concept of total spending used in this section is defined at the bottom of Table 1.6. The concept of expense in this section differs from that used in previous editions of the *Education Indicators* because certain data is no longer produced by Statistics Canada.
2. The duration of elementary and secondary education is 11 years in Québec and normally 12 years in the other regions considered. The private school system is also more developed in Québec than elsewhere in Canada.
3. See Marius Demers, "Educational Spending Relative to the GDP in 2001. A comparison of Québec and the OECD Countries," *Education Statistics Bulletin* 31 (Québec: Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Direction de la recherche, des statistiques et des indicateurs), September 2005. This document is available on the Internet at <<http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/stat/index.htm>>. An update to 2003 is available.
4. Québec's college network also has unique characteristics (including the mandatory two years of college before entering university). This compensates for the shorter duration of elementary and secondary education in Québec.

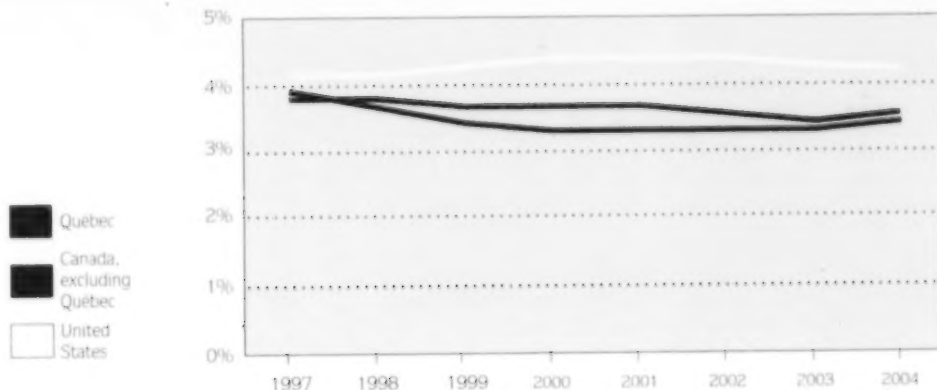
Table 1.6  
Total school board  
spending<sup>1</sup> in relation  
to the GDP: Québec,  
the other regions of  
Canada, and the United  
States (%)

	1997- 1998	1999- 2000	2001- 2002	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2004- 2005 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Québec</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Atlantic Provinces	4.8	4.6	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8
Ontario	4.0	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.5	3.6
Western Canada	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.1
<b>Canada</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>United States</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.2</b>

e: Estimates

1: Total spending includes the operating and capital expenses, direct contributions of the Québec government to employee pension plans and interest on the debt service (but not repayment of principal) (as defined by Statistics Canada). Figures on spending for 1997 to 2003 are taken from Statistics Canada's Elementary-Secondary Education Statistics Project (EESP), in which the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport participates. Also see Note 1 at the bottom of the text.

Graph 1.6  
Total school board  
spending in relation  
to the GDP:  
Québec, Canada  
excluding Québec,  
and the United States  
(%)



# 1.7 Total School Board Spending in Current and Constant Dollars

In 2005-2006, total school board spending in Québec was estimated at \$9.6 billion, student enrollments at approximately 1.1 million, and per-student spending in current dollars at \$9 094.<sup>1</sup>

Previous editions of the *Education Indicators* showed that during the 1970s, school board spending rose significantly in Québec in a context of high inflation. Spending can also be expressed in constant dollars, so as to factor in the rise in the price of goods and services used to provide educational services.<sup>2</sup> The figures show that spending in constant dollars remained relatively stable between 1976 and 1981, while enrollments declined by 17%. This resulted in a significant increase in real funds available per student. The following factors contributed to this rise: a lower student-teacher ratio, an increase in teacher qualifications recognized for salary purposes, and the higher cost of job security for teachers.

In the 1980s, a lower inflation rate, salary restrictions and generally more conservative budget policies considerably curbed the rapid rise in school board spending (in current and constant dollars).

Between 1990 and 1998, per-student spending in constant dollars also fell, so that in 1998-1999, it was 10% lower than in 1990-1991. This decrease can be explained by budget cutbacks and the application of cost-cutting measures in Québec school boards. The introduction of full-time kindergarten in 1997-1998 also contributed to the drop in per-student spending.<sup>3</sup>

Between 1998 and 2005, there was a 36% increase in per-student spending in current dollars and a 17% increase in constant dollars. These increases are primarily the result of the agreements concluded in 2000 and 2002 between the Québec government and the unions regarding a new salary structure for teachers,<sup>4</sup> and of support measures for school boards (additional funding for child-care services,<sup>5</sup> programs to reduce the dropout rate, smaller classes in preschool and the first cycle of elementary school, special education policy, implementation of the education reform, support for economically disadvantaged areas, various measures to counteract the effect of lower enrollments and to maintain services in the different regions of Québec, etc.).

These support measures for school boards also resulted in a decrease in the average number of students per teacher, which

dropped from 16.3 in 1998-1999 to 14.9 in 2005-2006. This factor contributed significantly to the increase in per-student spending.<sup>6</sup>

From 1998 to 2005, school board spending per student increased by 17% in constant dollars.

1. See Note 1 at the bottom of Table 1.7. The concept of spending is the same as that used in Section 1.8.
2. The consumer price index (CPI) is used to express spending in constant dollars. Editions of the *Education Indicators* prior to 2005 used the school boards' education price index.
3. The introduction of full-time kindergarten resulted in an increase in the "relative weight" of a relatively inexpensive sector of enrollments.
4. In the first agreement (April 2000), salary scales were adjusted retroactively to 1995-1996 but the school boards' financial statements do not take them into account until 1999-2000; this explains the large increase observed in 1999-2000 (significant adjustment of salary scales compared with the previous year). It is important to note, however, that the amounts paid retroactively in 1999-2000 for past years are not considered for the purpose of calculating per-student spending in 1999-2000 and that per-student spending for past years has not been adjusted.
5. Following a policy limiting the financial contribution of parents to \$5, then \$7, a day for each child enrolled on a regular basis in child-care services.
6. See Sections 1.8 and 1.9.

Table 1.7  
Total school board  
spending<sup>1</sup>

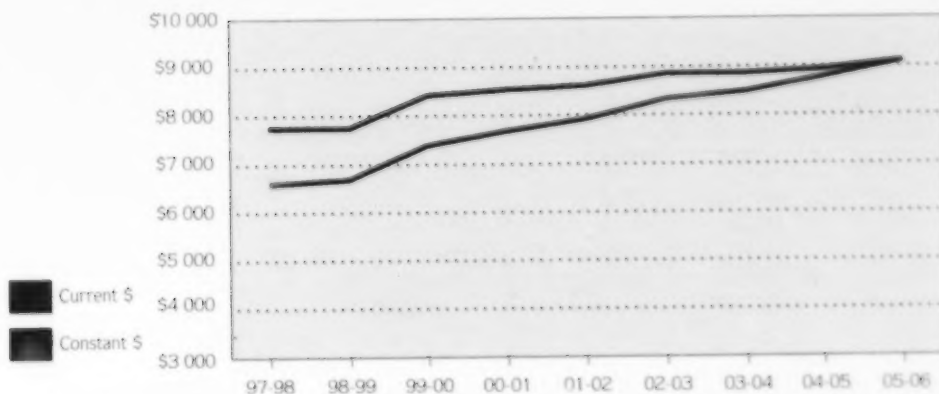
	1997- 1998	1998- 1999	2000- 2001	2002- 2003	2004- 2005	2005- 2006 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Total spending (in millions of dollars)</b>						
In current dollars	7 357.5	7 446.9	8 387.2	9 018.8	9 242.4	9 625.8
In constant 2005-2006 dollars <sup>2</sup>	8 652.8	8 642.1	9 330.6	9 593.4	9 448.4	9 625.8
<b>Spending per student (\$)</b>						
In current dollars	6 579	6 671	7 664	8 316	8 732	9 094
In constant 2005-2006 dollars <sup>2</sup>	7 737	7 742	8 526	8 846	8 927	9 094

e: Estimates

1: Total spending includes the operating and capital expenses, direct contributions of the Quebec government to employee pension plans and interest on the debt service (but not repayment of principal). This concept was defined by Statistics Canada (Elementary-Secondary Education Statistics Project—(ESESP)). The concept of spending in this section is the same as that used in Section 1.8, but the data here is more up-to-date than in Section 1.8 (which explains the small differences in per-student spending in current dollars in Quebec, for the same years in the two sections).

2: See Note 2 at the bottom of the text.

Graph 1.7  
Total school board  
spending per student  
in current dollars and  
in constant 2005-2006  
dollars





## 1.8 Total School Board Spending per Student

In 2003-2004, total spending per student<sup>1</sup> by Québec school boards was estimated at \$8 465, compared with the Atlantic Provinces at \$7 748, Ontario at \$8 629 and Western Canada at \$8 397. In the United States, per-student spending was estimated at \$12 432.<sup>2</sup>

Previous editions of the *Education Indicators* showed that spending per student rose more rapidly in Québec than in the rest of Canada and the United States in the 1970s. The sharper decline in Québec enrollments accounted for a large increase in per-student spending, owing to constraints that prevented expenses from being slashed in proportion to the drop in enrollments. More costly salary policies, a greater decrease in the student-teacher ratio and the higher cost of job-security policies also contributed to the more rapid rise of per-student spending in Québec during this period.

In the 1980s, a reversal occurred; per-student spending rose more slowly in Québec than in the rest of Canada and the United States. In Québec, the slower growth in spending was a result of salary-restriction measures applied to school board employees. During that time, the working conditions of school board employees were improving significantly in Ontario and in the United States, with the result that per-student costs increased at a faster pace in these regions than in Québec.

Between 1990 and 2003, per-student spending varied in Canada and, in 2003-2004, it was essentially the same in Québec as the Canadian average. It should be noted that per-student spending in Québec increased by 27% between 1998 and 2003. This increase is the result of different factors,<sup>3</sup> one of which is the main reason for the greater increase in per-student spending in Québec (27%) than in Ontario (14%) during this period. This is the fact that the student-teacher ratio decreased in Québec, while it remained the same in Ontario.<sup>4</sup>

It should also be noted that the comparison of per-student spending in the different provinces does not take into account regional differences in terms of the cost of living, which is lower in Québec than the average for the rest of Canada (about

10% lower in 2003-2004). If the data were adjusted to take the cost of living into account, per-student spending would be even higher in Québec (in absolute terms).

In the United States, per-student spending in 2003-2004 was 47% higher than in Québec. A comparison with the United States as a whole for 2003-2004 reveals that per-student spending was higher in 40 U.S. states<sup>5</sup> than in Québec, and lower in 11 states.

In 2003-2004, total school board spending per student in Québec was essentially the same as the Canadian average, but lower than in the United States.

1. The basic data used in this section is taken from an annual survey conducted by Statistics Canada among all Canadian provinces (Elementary-Secondary Education Statistics Project-ESESP). The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport participates in this survey.

2. For the purposes of this comparison, per-student spending in the United States is expressed in Canadian dollars. American dollars are converted to Canadian dollars using the purchasing power parity rates (PPP) set by the OECD. "Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) are the rates of currency conversion that equalize the purchasing power of different currencies. This means that a given sum of money, when converted into different currencies at the PPP rates, will buy the same basket of goods and services in all countries. Thus, PPPs are the rates of currency conversion which eliminate differences in price levels between countries." (OECD, National Accounts).

3. See Section 1.7.

4. See Section 1.9.

5. Including the District of Columbia.

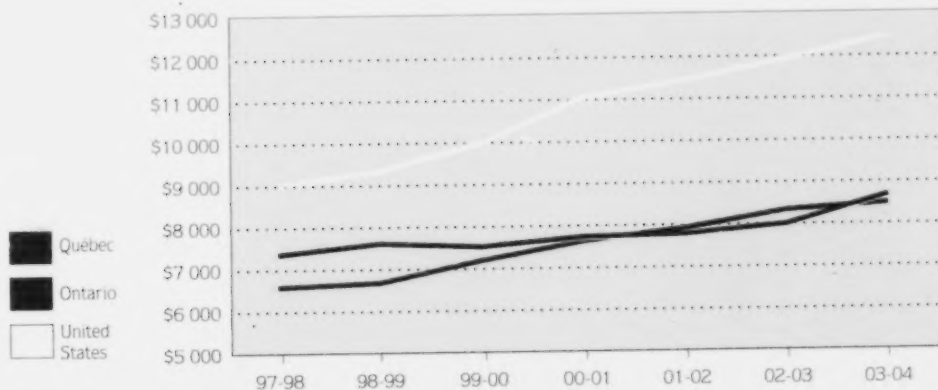
Table 1.8  
Total school board  
spending per student:<sup>1</sup>  
Québec, the other  
regions of Canada,  
and the United States  
(in current dollars<sup>2</sup>)

	1997- 1998	1998- 1999	2000- 2001	2001- 2002	2002- 2003	2003- 2004
<b>Québec</b>	<b>6 575</b>	<b>6 668</b>	<b>7 612</b>	<b>7 900</b>	<b>8 308</b>	<b>8 465</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>6 897</b>	<b>7 142</b>	<b>7 509</b>	<b>7 646</b>	<b>7 981</b>	<b>8 457</b>
Atlantic Provinces	5 813	6 015	7 095	6 950	7 236	7 748
Ontario	7 307	7 559	7 681	7 727	7 943	8 629
Western Canada	6 589	6 836	7 387	7 708	8 220	8 397
<b>Canada</b>	<b>6 826</b>	<b>7 037</b>	<b>7 531</b>	<b>7 701</b>	<b>8 052</b>	<b>8 459</b>
<b>United States</b>	<b>8 986</b>	<b>9 318</b>	<b>11 002</b>	<b>11 406</b>	<b>11 883</b>	<b>12 432</b>

1. Total spending includes the operating and capital expenses, direct contributions of the Québec government to employee pension plans and interest on the debt service (but not repayment of principal). This concept was defined by Statistics Canada (Elementary Secondary Education Statistics Project—EESP). The concept of spending in this section is the same as that used in Section 1.8, but the data here is more up-to-date than in Section 1.8 (which explains the small differences in per-student spending in current dollars in Québec, for the same years in the two sections).

2. See Note 2 at the bottom of the text.

Graph 1.8  
Total school board  
spending per student:  
Québec, Ontario and  
the United States  
(in current dollars)



## 1.9 Student-Teacher Ratio in School Boards

In 2005-2006, the average number of students per teacher in school boards was estimated at 14.9 in Québec. The student-teacher ratio is calculated by dividing the number of students by the number of teachers in the school boards. Data on enrollments and teaching personnel is expressed in full-time equivalents. The ratio therefore does not indicate the average number of students per class. To understand the difference between these two ratios, the student-teacher ratio must be considered as a composite indicator that is the result of three variables: the average number of students per class, the average teaching time of teachers and the average instruction time for students.

In 2005-2006, the student-teacher ratio in the United States was 15.2. A comparison of Québec with the United States as a whole reveals that the student-teacher ratio was higher in 26 states and lower in 25 states.<sup>1</sup>

The data available for the other provinces uses a broader concept of personnel. In addition to teachers, educators also include school administrators and nonteaching professionals who work with students (e.g. education consultants, guidance counsellors and pastoral animators). Table 1.9b contains data on the student-educator ratio.<sup>2</sup> In 2003-2004, this ratio was lower in Québec (14.1) than in the Atlantic Provinces (15.3), Ontario (16.6) and Western Canada (17.1). The lower number of students per educator in Québec than in Ontario is largely due to the average teaching time of teachers and class size, which are lower in Québec. For example, the average teaching time of teachers in Québec was 615 hours per year at the secondary level, while that of their counterparts in Ontario was 740 hours. Class size at the secondary level is estimated at 21 students in Québec and 23 students in Ontario.<sup>3</sup>

In the 1990s, the student-educator ratio in Québec and the rest of Canada tended to increase, rising the most in Ontario. The increase in Ontario was due to job cuts resulting from the application of the 1993 Social Contract legislation. One of the objectives of this legislation was to reduce the number of teachers in school boards. There were also budget cutbacks in Québec in the 1990s, but they affected mostly salaries. It should also be noted that, in their con-

tract negotiations, Québec unions have always given priority to employment levels and job descriptions.

However, since the peak observed in 1997-1998 (15.2), Québec's student-educator ratio has gradually declined. This can be explained in part by the smaller class sizes in preschool and the first cycle of elementary school, and by the hiring of specialists. In 2003-2004, the average number of students per educator was 14.1 in Québec and 16.6 in the rest of Canada. This gap of 2.5 has a major impact on school board spending per student and explains why, despite a lower average salary in Québec than in the rest of Canada, per-student spending is essentially the same.<sup>4</sup>

**The average number of students per teacher in Québec dropped from 16.3 in 1998-1999 to 14.9 in 2005-2006.**

1. Including the District of Columbia.

2. Data on the student-teacher ratio is taken from an annual survey conducted by Statistics Canada among all Canadian provinces (Elementary Secondary Education Statistics Project—ESESP). The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport participates in this survey.

3. The instruction time for students is 900 hours in Québec and 950 hours in Ontario.

4. See Sections 1.8 and 1.10.

Table 1.9a  
Student-teacher ratio  
in school boards:  
Québec and the United  
States

	1997- 1998	1998- 1999	2000- 2001	2002- 2003	2004- 2005	2005- 2006 <sup>e</sup>
Québec	16.5	16.3	16.0	15.7	15.0	14.9
United States	16.3	16.0	15.7	15.5	15.2	15.2

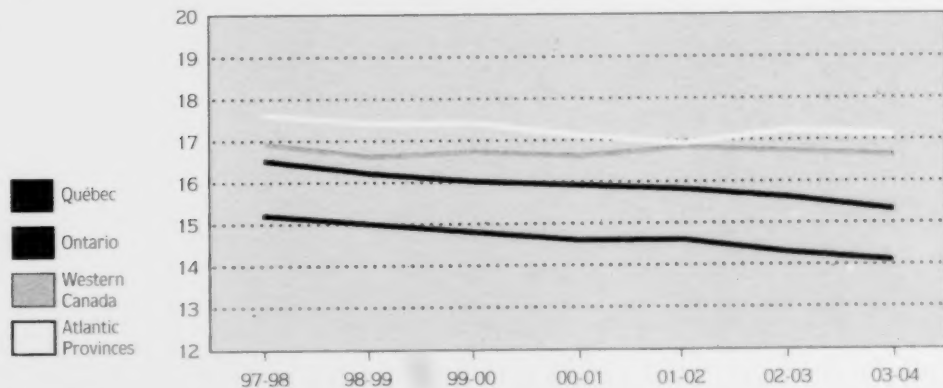
Table 1.9b  
Student-educator ratio<sup>1</sup>  
in school boards:  
Québec and the other  
regions of Canada

	1997- 1998	1998- 1999	2000- 2001	2001- 2002	2002- 2003	2003- 2004 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Québec</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>14.1</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>16.6</b>
Atlantic Provinces	16.5	16.2	15.9	15.8	15.6	15.3
Ontario	16.9	16.6	16.6	16.8	16.7	16.6
Western Canada	17.6	17.4	17.1	16.9	17.2	17.1
<b>Canada</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>16.0</b>

*e: Estimates*

1. See definition in the text.

Graph 1.9  
Student-educator  
ratio in school boards:  
Québec, Ontario and  
the other regions of  
Canada



## 1.10 Average Salary of Teachers in School Boards

In Québec, the basic salary of teachers in school boards is based on their schooling and work experience. There are 17 steps in the salary scale and a new teacher with a bachelor's degree enters at the third step (starting salary of \$36 196 in 2005-2006). The maximum salary was \$63 296 in 2005-2006, while the average salary was \$52 688.

In the United States, the average salary of teachers was \$61 386.<sup>1</sup> A comparison of Québec with the United States as a whole for 2005-2006 reveals 33 U.S. states<sup>2</sup> where the average salary of teachers was higher than in Québec and 18 states where it was lower.

The data available for the other provinces uses a broader concept of personnel. In addition to teachers, educators also include school administrators and nonteaching professionals who work with students (e.g. education consultants, guidance counsellors and pastoral animators).<sup>3</sup> Table 1.10b contains data on the average salary of educators. In 2003-2004, the average salary of educators in Québec was lower than in the rest of Canada. The difference between the average salary in Québec (\$51 960) and in the rest of Canada (\$64 281) was 19%.

Throughout most of the 1990s, the average salary of educators increased more slowly in Québec than in the rest of Canada. In Québec, in a battle against budget deficits, agreements between the government and unions have resulted in the average salary of teachers rising very little. Also, in 1997, a vast program of voluntary retirement resulted in a younger average age of teachers in Québec and, consequently, a decrease in the average salary because of less seniority.<sup>4</sup>

Between 1998-1999 and 2003-2004, the increase in the average salary of educators in Québec (16.0%) was about the same as in the rest of Canada (15.2%). In 2003-2004, the average salary of teachers in Québec was still lower than that of their counterparts in the rest of Canada (a difference of 19%). It must be noted, however, that relative wealth (measured in terms of per capita GDP) and the cost of living are both lower in Québec than in the rest of Canada.

The salary of teachers in Québec school boards can be compared with that of the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) using indicators such as starting salary, salary after 15 years of seniority and maximum salary.<sup>5</sup> In 2004-2005, the salary of teachers in Québec school boards was higher than the average for the OECD countries. Gaps in salaries are particularly wide in the case of teachers with 15 years of seniority because in Québec teachers reach the maximum salary scale their 15th year of recognized experience, whereas in the OECD countries, the maximum salary is reached on average after 24 years.

**Teachers in Québec earned less than teachers in neighbouring regions, although the cost of living in Québec is lower as well.**

1. The average salary of American teachers was determined on the basis of data from the National Education Association; this data was then converted into Canadian dollars using the purchasing power parity rates (PPP) set by the OECD. See Note 2 in Section 1.8.
2. Including the District of Columbia.
3. Data on the student-teacher ratio is taken from an annual survey conducted by Statistics Canada among all Canadian provinces (Elementary/Secondary Education Statistics Project-ESESP). The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport participates in this survey.
4. In Québec, the basic salary of teachers in school boards is determined by the collective agreements. Teachers' salaries are based on their schooling and work experience.
5. See Marius Demers, "Cost of Statutory Salaries of Teachers per Student for Elementary and Secondary School Levels in 2000-2001: A comparison of Québec and OECD Countries," Education Statistics Bulletin 29 (Québec: Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Direction de la recherche, des statistiques et des indicateurs), November 2003. This document is available on the Internet at <<http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/stat/index.htm>>. An update to 2004-2005 is available.

Table 1.10a  
Average salary of  
teachers in school  
boards: Québec and  
the United States  
(in current dollars<sup>1</sup>)

	1997- 1998	1998- 1999	2000- 2001	2002- 2003	2004- 2005	2005- 2006 <sup>e</sup>
Québec	41 595	42 908	46 992	48 635	51 317	52 688
United States	47 451	48 135	53 528	56 255	59 593	61 386

Table 1.10b  
Average salary of  
educators<sup>2</sup> in school  
boards: Québec and  
the other regions  
of Canada  
(in current dollars)

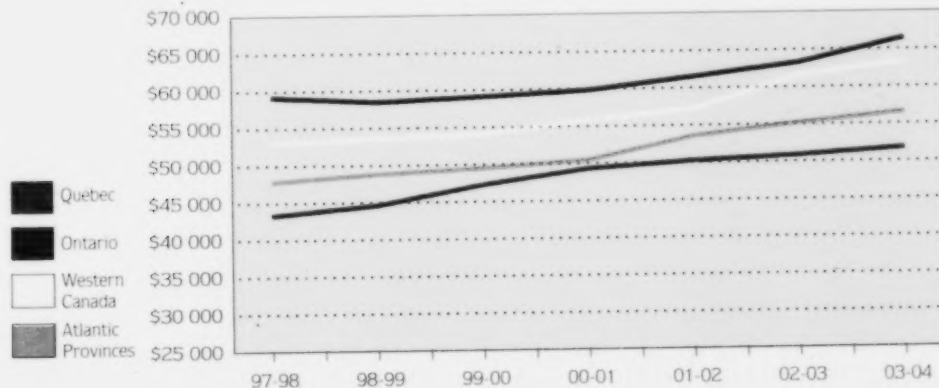
	1997- 1998	1998- 1999	2000- 2001	2001- 2002	2002- 2003	2003- 2004
<b>Québec</b>	<b>43 446</b>	<b>44 779</b>	<b>49 479</b>	<b>50 414</b>	<b>51 030</b>	<b>51 960</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>55 723</b>	<b>55 776</b>	<b>57 365</b>	<b>59 077</b>	<b>61 821</b>	<b>64 281</b>
Atlantic Provinces	47 987	48 993	50 661	53 752	55 397	56 781
Ontario	59 144	58 462	59 801	61 483	63 250	66 469
Western Canada	53 152	53 838	56 057	57 417	61 809	63 506
<b>Canada</b>	<b>52 732</b>	<b>53 120</b>	<b>55 473</b>	<b>56 993</b>	<b>59 181</b>	<b>61 249</b>

e: Estimates

1. See Note 1 at the bottom of the text.

2. See definition in the text.

Graph 1.10  
Average salary of  
educators in school  
boards: Québec and  
other regions of Canada  
(in current dollars)



## 1.11 CEGEP Operating Expenses

In 2005-2006, CEGEP spending on regular education was estimated at approximately \$1.3 billion, with student enrollments at roughly 143 000.<sup>1</sup> Per-student spending was an estimated \$8 984.

Previous editions of the *Education Indicators* showed that CEGEP spending grew more slowly in the 1980s than in the 1970s. This was a result of a curtailment of the inflation rate, as well as budget cutbacks adopted by the Québec government. Enrollments also continued to rise until the mid-1980s, but then declined. Per-student spending in constant dollars was lower in 1989-1990 than in 1981-1982.<sup>2</sup>

In 1990-1991, per-student spending in current dollars was \$6 920, or 8.6% higher than in 1989-1990 (which corresponds to a growth of 4.1% in constant dollars). This increase can be explained primarily by a decline in the student-teacher ratio following the addition of new positions as part of a collective agreement. The increase in the number of teachers applies to activities such as departmental committees, practicum, professional development, and student support services.

In the 1990s, per-student spending in constant dollars followed a downward trend. This can be explained by budget cutbacks and the application of cost-cutting measures in CEGEPs. These measures were largely the result of agreements between the government and unions, which made it possible to lower labour costs. Thus, between 1990 and 1998, per-student spending in constant dollars decreased by 17%.

Between 1998-1999 and 2003-2004, there was a 30% increase in per-student spending in current dollars and a 17% increase in constant dollars. These increases were due primarily to new collective agreements for all CEGEP employees and support measures for CEGEPs (for the development of new information technologies, for careers in science, for success measures, etc.). However, per-student spending in constant dollars has remained stable since 2002-2003. In 2006, the Québec government announced a significant investment in CEGEPs over the coming years; this should translate into an increase in per-student spending in constant dollars, starting in 2006-2007.

Per-student spending in CEGEPs was therefore \$8 984 in 2005-2006. This amount is an average for all types of programs: per-student spending on pre-university programs was \$7 143, while spending on technical programs was \$10 717. The higher estimated cost of technical training (50% more) is due primarily to the higher cost of personnel and the use of more costly equipment. The higher cost of personnel is attributable for the most part to the fact that the average number of students per teacher is far lower in technical training than in general education.

In 2005-2006, 93% of CEGEP spending on regular education was provided by the Québec government. This percentage is much higher than the corresponding percentage for community colleges in the other provinces. This is because college is free in Québec, while students attending community colleges in the other provinces must generally pay tuition.<sup>3</sup> In Ontario, for example, students in regular programs pay annual tuition fees of approximately \$1 900.<sup>4</sup>

Between 1998-1999 and 2005-2006, CEGEP spending increased by 24%, in spite of a 8% decrease in enrollments. This resulted in a significant increase in per-student spending.

1. Data on enrollments is based on fall registration recognized for the purpose of estimating costs.
2. In this section, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used to express spending in constant dollars. Editions of the *Education Indicators* prior to 2005 used the CEGEPs' education price index.
3. CEGEP students (in regular education) do not pay tuition. There are, however, certain mandatory expenses, and students must pay for their textbooks and other supplies.
4. Tuition fees for some programs are higher (14% of students pay between \$2 000 and \$6 000, while less than 1% pay between \$6 000 and \$11 000).

Table 1.11  
CEGEP operating  
expenses<sup>1</sup>

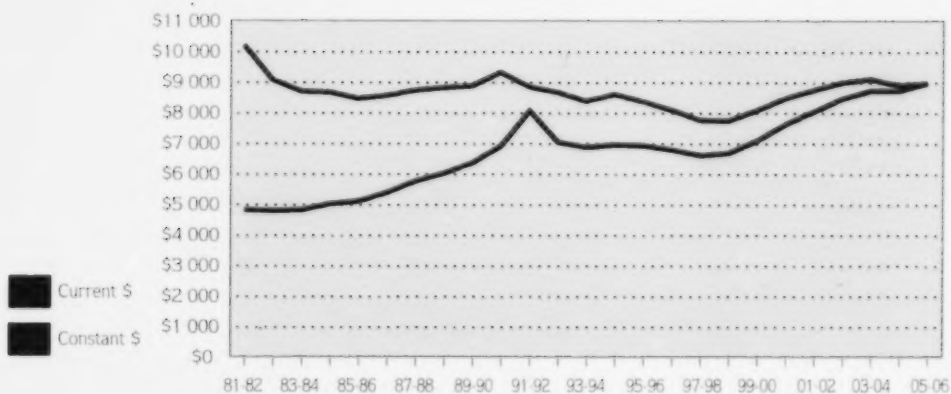
	1990- 1991	1993- 1994	1998- 1999	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2005- 2006 <sup>a</sup>
Total spending in current dollars (in millions of dollars)	909.0	1 074.9	1 035.7	1 230.4	1 258.8	1 284.6
Per-student spending in current dollars	6 920	6 876	6 688	8 469	8 725	8 984
Per-student spending in constant 2005-2006 dollars <sup>2</sup>	9 337	8 398	7 761	9 009	9 116	8 984

a: Estimates

1. Operating expenses exclude debt service (long-term and current liabilities) and capital expenses financed directly from current revenues.

2. See Note 2 at the bottom of the text.

Graph 1.11  
CEGEP operating  
expenses per student  
in current dollars  
and in constant  
2005-2006 dollars





# 1.12 Student-Teacher Ratio, Average Teacher Salary and Cost of Teachers per Student in CEGEPs

This section is a complement to Section 1.11, which analyzed the changes in CEGEP spending. Salary costs for teachers accounted for more than half the total of CEGEP spending in 2005-2006, and the changes in these costs were a determining factor in the changes in operating expenses.<sup>1</sup> Two factors determine the cost of teachers per student:<sup>2</sup> the student-teacher ratio, and the average salary of teachers in CEGEPs.

In 2005-2006, the average number of students per teacher in CEGEPs was estimated at 12.6 and the average teacher's salary, at \$59 814. The student-teacher ratio is calculated by dividing the number of students by the number of teachers in the CEGEPs.<sup>3</sup> The ratio therefore does not indicate the average number of students per class. To understand the difference between these two ratios, the student-teacher ratio must be considered as a composite indicator that is the result of three variables: the average number of students per class, the average teaching time of teachers and the average instruction time for students.

Previous editions of the *Education Indicators* revealed that the cost of teachers per student in constant dollars decreased during the 1980s. During the same period, the student-teacher ratio increased and the average teacher salary (in constant dollars) decreased. These changes occurred in the context of more conservative budget policies.

Between 1989 and 1990, the cost of teachers per student increased by 11.2% (7.4% in constant dollars). As mentioned in Section 1.11, this increase is mainly due to a decrease in the average number of students per teacher following the addition of new positions as part of a collective agreement. The increase in the number of teachers applies to activities such as departmental committees, practicums, professional development, and student support services.

Between 1990 and 1998, per-student spending in constant dollars decreased. The labour cost reduction measures mentioned in Section 1.11 contributed to this result. Of particular note is the program of voluntary retirement that resulted in a younger average age of teachers. These measures were taken as part of the battle against budget deficits undertaken by the Quebec government in the 1990s.

However, between 1998 and 2003, there was a 14% increase in the cost of teachers per student in constant dollars, primarily because of new collective agreements for all CEGEP employees and a decrease in the student-teacher ratio, from 13.8 in 1998-1999 to 12.4 in 2003-2004. However, since 2002-2003, the cost of teachers per student in constant dollars has been relatively stable, in large part, because salaries were underindexed during this period.<sup>4</sup>

In 2005-2006, the average number of students per teacher in CEGEPs was estimated at 12.6 and the average teacher's salary, at \$59 814. The actual cost of teachers increased by 14% between 1998 and 2003, followed by a slight decline.

1. The salary costs considered in this section do not include employee benefits. If these were included, salary costs for teachers would account for more than 60% of total CEGEP operating expenses.
2. The cost of teachers per student is calculated by dividing the total payroll for teachers by the number of students.
3. Data on enrollments is based on fall registration recognized for the purpose of estimating costs, and data on teaching personnel is expressed in full-time equivalents.
4. The Quebec government adopted Bill 142, which defines the salary rates and scales for CEGEP personnel until 2010.

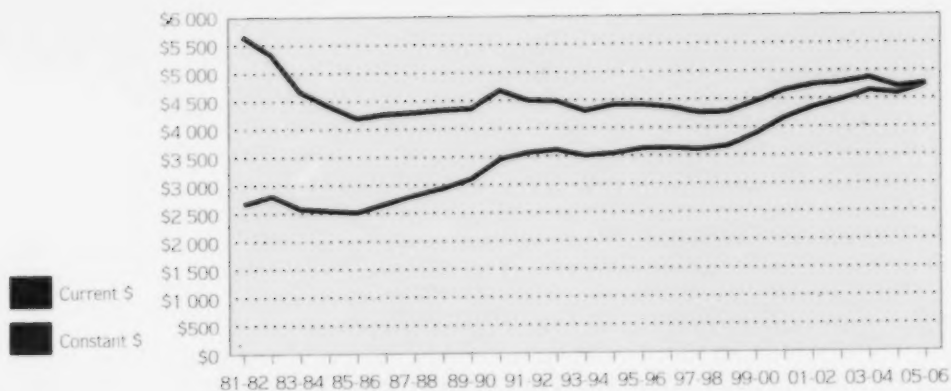
Table 1.12  
Student-teacher ratio,<sup>1</sup>  
average salary of  
teachers and cost  
of teachers per student  
in CEGEPs

	1990- 1991	1993- 1994	1998- 1999	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2005- 2006*
Student-teacher ratio	13.5	13.9	13.8	12.5	12.4	12.6
Average salary in current dollars	46 512	48 789	50 399	55 877	57 489	59 814
<b>Cost of teachers per student</b>						
In current dollars	3 444	3 503	3 659	4 473	4 634	4 737
In constant dollars (2005-2006)	4 648	4 278	4 246	4 758	4 842	4 737

\*: Estimates

1. See Note 3 at the bottom of the text.

Graph 1.12  
Cost of teachers per  
student in CEGEPs  
in current dollars  
and in constant  
2005-2006 dollars



## 1.13 Total University Spending in Relation to the GDP

In 2005-2006, 1.92% of the GDP was allocated to university education in Québec,<sup>1</sup> compared with 2.09% in the Atlantic Provinces, 1.55% in Ontario and 1.27% in Western Canada.<sup>2</sup>

Previous editions of the *Education Indicators* showed that during the 1980s, the share of the GDP allocated to university education dropped slightly in Québec, Ontario and the Atlantic Provinces, whereas it increased in Western Canada. However, in the early 1990s the share of the GDP allocated to university education increased significantly in Québec, whereas the increase was less marked in the rest of Canada. Québec's higher spending is partly explained by strong growth in research at its universities,<sup>3</sup> but also by a more rapid increase in real funds allocated to education. Between 1993 and 1999, the share of the GDP allocated to university education dropped in Québec as a result of budget cuts and a reduction in labour costs. In the rest of Canada, the share of the GDP allocated to university education went down as well, although not as significantly.

Between 1999 and 2005, the share of the GDP allocated to university education increased slightly both in Québec and in the rest of Canada. In Québec, this increase was due primarily to the increase in per-student spending (in absolute terms) and by the growth in enrollments. In 2005-2006, investment in university education remained higher in Québec than in the rest of Canada (except in the Atlantic Provinces). To explain why Québec invested more of its GDP in university education, it is necessary to consider the following four factors: per-student spending; the collective wealth (as defined by the per capita GDP); the labour force participation rate (the proportion of the student population with respect to the population aged 18 to 24) and the demographic factor (the proportion of 18-to-24-year-olds with respect to the total population). Three of these four factors contributed to greater spending in Québec: higher per-student spending in Québec than in the rest of Canada, the slightly higher labour force participation rate in Québec and, most of all, the fact that the collective wealth is lower in Québec. Only the demographic factor (relatively fewer young people in Québec) had the opposite effect.

Another indicator is used to determine the relative investment of the regions under consideration. It combines two of the factors: per-student spending and the per capita GDP. In addition to the regions' ability to pay, this ratio takes into account differences in the cost of living (in 2005-2006, the cost of living in Québec was about 10% lower than in the rest of Canada). The relationship between per-student

spending and the per capita GDP is considerably higher in Québec than in the rest of Canada.<sup>4</sup>

When compared with the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Québec ranks among the countries with the largest share of its GDP allocated to university education in 2003.<sup>5</sup> This can be explained primarily by the fact that the cost of per-student spending is much higher in Québec than the OECD average. In addition, the schooling rate of young people is higher in Québec than on average in OECD countries, and this factor contributed to the larger investment in university education.

Investment in university education is higher in Québec than in the rest of Canada and in most OECD countries.

1. In 2005-2006, Québec spent \$5.3 billion of its \$274.9-billion GDP on university education.
2. The data on universities presented here has not been adjusted to take into account the organizational differences in the education systems. The concept of spending used in this section differs from that of previous editions of the *Education Indicators* because certain data is no longer produced by Statistics Canada.
3. See Section 1.17.
4. See Section 1.4.
5. See Marius Demers, "Educational Spending Relative to the GDP in 2001: A comparison of Québec and the OECD Countries," *Education Statistics Bulletin* 31 (Québec: Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, Direction de la recherche, des statistiques et des indicateurs), September 2005. This document is available on the Internet at <<http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/stat/index.htm>>. An update to 2003 is available.

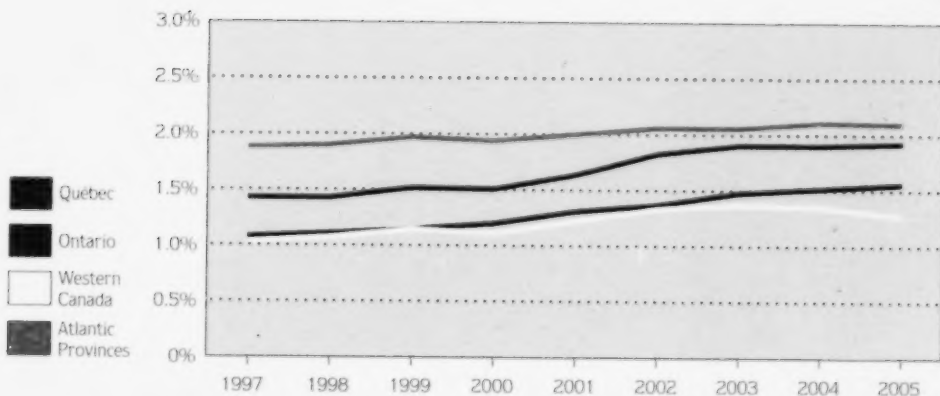
Table 1.13  
Total spending  
allocated to university  
education<sup>1</sup> in relation  
to the GDP: Québec  
and the other regions  
of Canada (%)

	1997- 1998	1999- 2000	2001- 2002	2003- 2004	2004- 2005	2005- 2006 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Québec</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>1.51</b>	<b>1.63</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>1.90</b>	<b>1.92</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>1.11</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>1.46</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>1.46</b>
Atlantic Provinces	1.87	1.96	1.99	2.05	2.10	2.09
Ontario	1.07	1.14	1.30	1.47	1.51	1.55
Western Canada	1.03	1.14	1.22	1.37	1.35	1.27
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>1.55</b>

e: Estimates

1. Total university spending includes the general operating fund, endowment fund, research fund and capital fund. The basic data used to calculate total university spending in relation to the GDP was obtained from the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) and Statistics Canada. Also see Note 2 in the text.

Graph 1.13  
Total university  
spending in relation  
to the GDP: Québec and  
the other regions of  
Canada



## 1.14 Total Per-Student University Spending

In 2005-2006, total spending per student by Quebec universities was estimated at \$26 951, compared with \$20 762 in the Atlantic Provinces, \$22 563 in Ontario and \$28 879 in Western Canada.

Total university spending includes the general operating fund, endowment fund, research fund and capital fund. The concept of spending used in this section differs from that of previous editions of the *Education Indicators*, where the concept of operating expenses was used. However, in light of new information, it is preferable to use a broader definition in order to have more comparable data on per-student spending in universities.<sup>1</sup>

Between 1997 and 2001, the gap between total per-student spending in Quebec and in the rest of Canada narrowed, and in 2001-2002, it was essentially the same. However, in subsequent years, it rose at a faster rate than in the rest of Canada, such that in 2005-2006, per-student spending was 11% higher in Quebec (\$26 951) than in the rest of Canada (\$24 323).

The more rapid growth in spending in Québec in recent years is primarily a result of a more substantial operating subsidy (reinvestment in Québec universities and 100% funding of the growth in student enrollments).

The higher total per-student spending in Quebec universities in 2005-2006 can be partly explained by the organizational differences among education systems, such as differences in the composition of the student body according to level and field of study. Because Quebec universities have a costlier composition, per-student spending is also higher. If the data were adjusted to take this factor into account, the gap between Quebec and the rest of Canada would drop to 6% (instead of 11%).

Another adjustment may also be made to take into account differences in the cost of living from one province to another (the cost of living was approximately 10% lower in Québec than in the rest of Canada in 2005-2006). If the data were adjusted to consider both the costlier student body composition of Québec universities and Québec's lower cost of living, the gap between Quebec and the rest of Canada would rise to 16%.

Unadjusted data shows that in 2005-2006, total spending per student by Québec universities was \$2 628 higher than the average for the rest

of Canada. This gap can be explained primarily by higher per-student spending on teaching personnel,<sup>2</sup> administration, activities related to computers and communications, research, capital expenses and financing costs. Conversely, there is less spending in Québec than in the rest of Canada on student services (including bursaries<sup>3</sup>), external relations and libraries. This difference, which has been particularly pronounced in recent years can be explained in part by Ontario's double cohort.<sup>4</sup>

In 2004-2005, total spending per student by Québec universities was higher than in the rest of Canada.

1. In 2004, the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO) formed a task force responsible for identifying the factors behind the differences in financial reporting from one university to another. Experts have indicated that one of the main factors contributing to data comparability problems is the fact that universities record their expenses differently in the various funds. Thus, some expenses are entered in the capital fund and others, in the general operating fund (e.g. the purchase of furniture and equipment). The report also notes problems related to the distribution of certain expenses between the general operating fund and the research fund (e.g. medicine costs), as well as between the general operating fund and the endowment fund (Source: CAUBO, Report of the Task Force on the Review of CAUBO Financial Reporting, November 2004).
2. See Section 1.15.
3. Universities outside Québec award more bursaries because their tuition fees are higher than Québec's, but they are expected to give a portion back to the students in the form of bursaries.
4. The double cohort refers to students who began Grade 11 and Grade 12 in September 2001, and who completed their secondary education at the same time in 2003. Therefore, a large number of students entered university in 2003-2004, which resulted in an increase in the "relative weight" of a less expensive sector of enrollments.

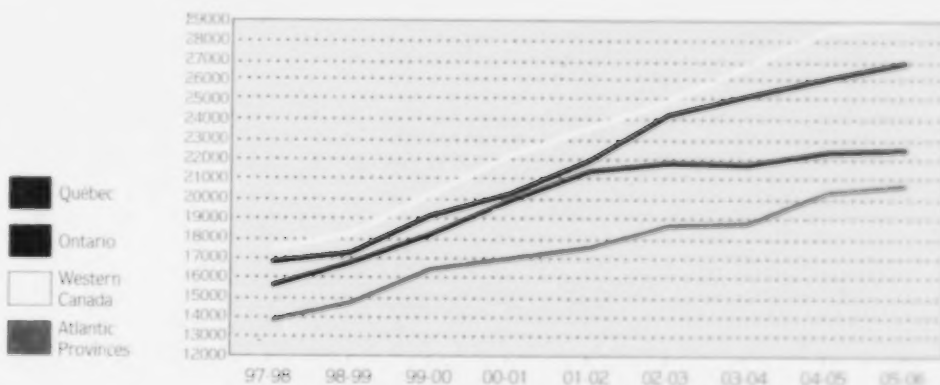
Table 1.14  
Total university  
spending per student:<sup>1</sup>  
Québec and the other  
regions of Canada  
(in current dollars)

	1997- 1998	1999- 2000	2001- 2002	2003- 2004	2004- 2005	2005- 2006 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Québec</b>	<b>16 780</b>	<b>19 129</b>	<b>21 936</b>	<b>25 241</b>	<b>26 136</b>	<b>26 951</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>16 010</b>	<b>18 680</b>	<b>21 671</b>	<b>23 042</b>	<b>24 164</b>	<b>24 323</b>
Atlantic Provinces	13 868	16 463	17 582	18 817	20 406	20 762
Ontario	15 618	18 229	21 453	21 798	22 436	22 563
Western Canada	17 481	20 253	23 631	26 797	28 637	28 879
<b>Canada</b>	<b>16 203</b>	<b>18 793</b>	<b>21 736</b>	<b>23 563</b>	<b>24 628</b>	<b>24 927</b>

e: Estimates

1. Total university spending includes the general operating fund, endowment fund, research fund and capital fund. The concept of spending used in this section differs from that of previous editions of the Education Indicators. The basic data used to calculate per student spending in universities was obtained from Statistics Canada and the Canadian Association of University Business Officers (CAUBO). In addition, the calculation of per-student spending is based on a standard method for counting student enrollments in all provinces, as follows: part-time enrollments are divided by 3.5 to convert them into full-time equivalents, and are then added to the full-time enrollments.

Graph 1.14  
Total university  
spending per student:  
Québec and the other  
regions of Canada  
(in current dollars)



## 1.15 Salary Costs of University Professors

Salary spending (including employee benefits) for all categories of personnel accounts for more than half of the total university spending in Québec and in the rest of Canada. Professors' salaries are the largest component of payroll expenditure. When the total payroll for professors is divided by the number of students expressed in full-time equivalents, the result is the cost of professors per student. In 2004-2005, this cost (\$7018) was higher in Québec than in the Atlantic Provinces (\$6108) and Ontario (\$6252), but lower than in Western Canada (\$8092).<sup>1</sup> The cost of professors per student in Québec is higher than the average for the rest of Canada (\$6822).

The total payroll considered in the calculation of per-student spending for professors includes deans, department heads, research professors and lecturers, as well as amounts paid to all other personnel employed in teaching positions (as defined by Statistics Canada).<sup>2</sup> Of the factors that explain the differences observed in per-student spending for professors, two are particularly significant: the average number of students per professor, and the average salary of professors. Table 1.15 presents data on the average salary of full-time professors.<sup>3</sup>

In 2004-2005, the average salary of professors in Québec (\$90609) was 8% higher than in the Atlantic Provinces (\$83616), but 4% and 7% lower, respectively, than in Ontario (\$94720) and Western Canada (\$97092). However, it should be noted that the cost of living is lower in Québec than the average for the rest of Canada (about 10% lower in 2004-2005).

It should also be noted that, although the average salary of professors in Québec is lower than in Ontario (by 4% in 2004-2005), the per-student cost of professors is still higher in Québec (by 12% in 2004-2005). This is primarily because the average number of students per professor (in full-time equivalents) is lower in Québec than in Ontario.

It is difficult to obtain comparable data on the student-professor ratio in universities because of differences in the information systems relating to part-time professors. However, part-time professors (including lecturers) must be included in the calculation of student-professor ratios because they are responsible for much of the teaching in universities (slightly more than 50% in Québec).

Depending on the hypotheses used to convert part-time professors into full-time equivalents, the differences between the student-professor ratio in Québec and Ontario may be larger or smaller, but the data always indicates that, in recent years, the average number of students per professor has been lower in Québec than in Ontario.<sup>4</sup> This difference was particularly pronounced in 2003-2004 and in 2004-2005, in part because of Ontario's double cohort.<sup>5</sup>

**The salary costs of university professors in Québec are slightly higher than in the rest of Canada.**

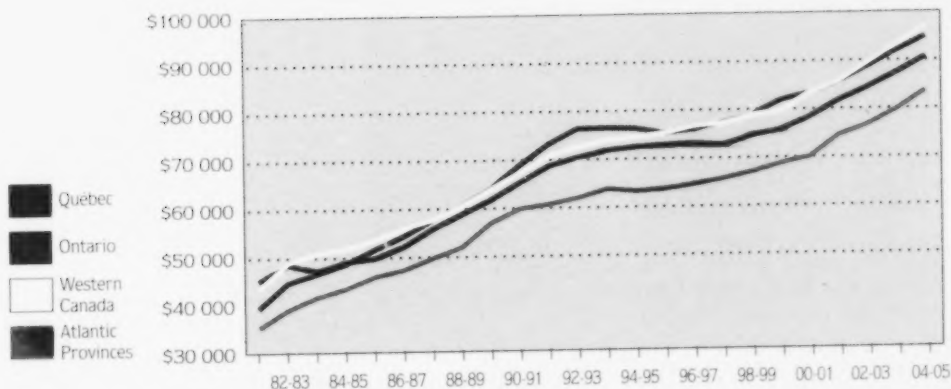
1. The calculation of per-student spending for professors is based on a standard method for counting student enrollments in all the provinces, as follows: part-time enrollments are divided by 3.5 to convert them into full-time equivalents, and are then added to the full-time enrollments.
2. Employee benefits are not included in the total payroll used for this calculation.
3. Average salary includes basic salary as well as additional fees paid for administrative functions.
4. According to the Council of Ontario Universities, the average number of students per professor in Québec is lower than in Ontario (see Ontario Universities-2004; Resource Document, July 2004, Tables 8.5 and 8.6).
5. The double cohort refers to students who began Grade 11 and Grade 12 in September 2001, and who completed their secondary education at the same time in 2003. Therefore, a large number of students entered university in 2003-2004, which resulted in a larger class size.

Table 1.15  
Average salary of  
full-time university  
professors: Québec  
and the other regions  
of Canada  
(in current dollars)

	1990- 1991	1994- 1995	1998- 1999	2000- 2001	2003- 2004	2004- 2005 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Québec</b>	<b>65 284</b>	<b>72 435</b>	<b>74 566</b>	<b>78 300</b>	<b>87 347</b>	<b>90 609</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>66 817</b>	<b>73 549</b>	<b>76 838</b>	<b>81 151</b>	<b>90 424</b>	<b>93 921</b>
Atlantic Provinces	59 826	63 231	67 001	70 067	79 708	83 616
Ontario	68 763	76 164	78 704	83 234	91 787	94 720
Western Canada	67 267	74 549	78 729	83 263	93 117	97 092
<b>Canada</b>	<b>66 464</b>	<b>73 268</b>	<b>76 284</b>	<b>80 467</b>	<b>89 709</b>	<b>93 111</b>

e: Estimates

Graph 1.15  
Average salary  
of university  
research professors:  
Québec and the other  
regions of Canada  
(in current dollars)





# 1.16 Student Financial Assistance and Tuition Fees

In Québec, financial assistance is available to students in full-time postsecondary education and in secondary-level vocational training programs. The loans and bursaries awarded under Québec's student financial assistance program are intended to supplement the contribution of the student and, where applicable, of his or her parents, sponsor or spouse; responsibility for the cost of education lies with them first and foremost. Government assistance covers the difference between the allowable expenses and the contribution of the student and, where applicable, of his or her parents, sponsor or spouse.

In 2005-2006, 27.7% of full-time students in secondary vocational training, 26.6% of full-time college students and 41.3% of full-time university students received assistance. A total of 132 351 students benefited from the Loans and Bursaries Program. Of these, 51 288 received only a loan, 79 841 received a loan and a bursary, and 1 222 received only a bursary. A total of \$495.4 million was granted in the form of loans and \$302.9 million, in bursaries.

In 2005-2006, of the university students who received financial assistance, 36.6% obtained only a loan, which averaged \$3 748, whereas 63.4% obtained a loan and a bursary totalling an average of \$8 323. Those who received a loan and a bursary obtained on average slightly less than half of the assistance in the form of a bursary.

A look at the historical data on the breakdown of financial assistance awarded to Québec students attending university shows that the portion of assistance granted in the form of loans and bursaries fluctuated between 1990 and 2005 (Table 1.16b). In 2005-2006, loans accounted for 61.2% of the total assistance awarded and bursaries, 38.8%. Assistance in the form of bursaries is expected to increase in 2006-2007.<sup>1</sup>

In 2005-2006, upon completion of their undergraduate studies, Québec students who had received loans owed on average \$10 612. The average debt for graduate studies was \$13 810 and for postgraduate studies, \$19 265.

Student loans contracted for college and undergraduate studies averaged \$14 231 in 2005-2006; for college through to graduate

studies, \$22 697; and for college through to postgraduate studies \$31 335.

It is important to note that debt levels for Québec students are significantly lower than those for students in the rest of Canada. This can be explained in part by the fact that, on average, Québec awards more bursaries than the other provinces, as well as the fact that Québec's tuition fees are the lowest in Canada.

For example, tuition fees in Québec universities in 2006-2007 were 38% of the amount charged in the rest of Canada, fees for Québec residents having remained frozen for a number of years. While there were major increases between 1990-1991 and 1994-1995, tuition fees for Québec residents are once again frozen.<sup>2</sup> The gap between Québec and the rest of Canada has therefore once again begun to widen, and in 2006-2007, tuition fees in the rest of Canada (\$5 046) were 2.6 times higher than in Québec (\$1 916).

**In 2006-2007, average tuition fees were \$1 916 in Québec and \$5 046 in the rest of Canada.**

1. Following the agreement concluded with student federations in the spring of 2005, the Minister agreed to return loans to 2003-2004 levels. This is primarily why the portion of assistance awarded in the form of bursaries in 2005-2006 and in 2006-2007 increased.

2. See Note 1 at the bottom of Table 1.16b.

Table 1.16a  
Average tuition fees for  
full-time undergraduate  
university students:  
Québec and the other  
regions of Canada  
(in current dollars)

	1989- 1990	1991- 1992	1995- 1996	2000- 2001	2005- 2006 <sup>a</sup>	2006- 2007 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Québec<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>519</b>	<b>1 311</b>	<b>1 703</b>	<b>1 819</b>	<b>1 900</b>	<b>1 916</b>
<b>Canada, excluding Québec</b>	<b>1 537</b>	<b>1 842</b>	<b>2 603</b>	<b>3 917</b>	<b>4 881</b>	<b>5 046</b>
Atlantic Provinces	1 728	2 075	2 821	4 014	5 082	5 312
Ontario	1 561	1 818	2 518	4 256	4 933	5 160
Western Canada	1 409	1 780	2 639	3 305	4 704	4 735
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1 271</b>	<b>1 706</b>	<b>2 384</b>	<b>3 447</b>	<b>4 211</b>	<b>4 347</b>

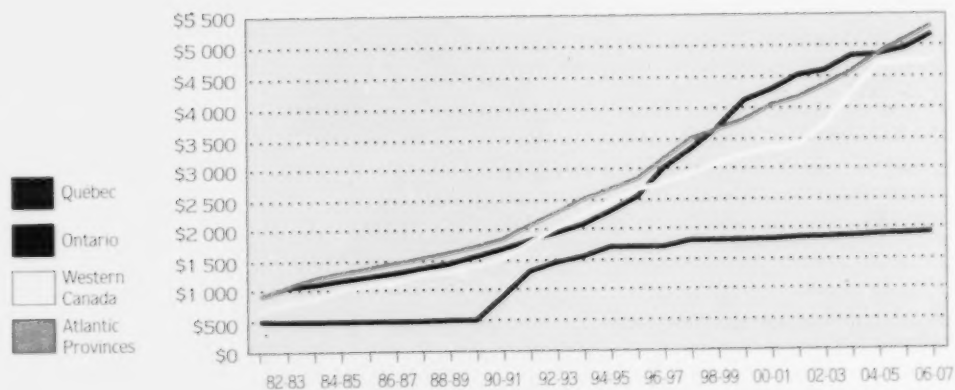
Table 1.16b  
Proportion of financial  
assistance given to  
Québec university  
students in the form of  
loans and bursaries (%)

	1990- 1991	1995- 1996	2000- 2001	2003- 2004	2004- 2005	2005- 2006
Loans	59.4	66.4	59.3	50.4	69.5	61.2
Bursaries	40.6	33.6	40.7	49.6	30.5	38.8

p: Preliminary data

<sup>1</sup>In Québec, as of the fall of 1997, Canadian students not residing in Québec must pay an additional amount that has been taken into account in the calculation of the average tuition fees (Statistics Canada data). This explains the increase in tuition fees in recent years, despite the freeze on tuition for Québec residents. Tuition fees for Québec residents are \$1 668.

Graph 1.16  
Average tuition fees for  
full-time undergraduate  
university students:  
Québec and the other  
regions of Canada  
(in current dollars)



## 1.17 Funded and Sponsored Research in Universities

The amount of funding through grants and research contracts allocated to universities almost doubled from 1994-1995 to 2004-2005, going from \$586.6 million to \$1.383 billion. The major increase in the amount allocated to university research from 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 requires some explanation. Two factors contributed significantly to these increases: one was the federal government's payment of indirect costs and the recording of these grants in the *Système sur la recherche universitaire (SIRU)*. The second major change involves the inclusion in the SIRU, in the past two years, of grants awarded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and its partners, for university research infrastructures. Before this, only grants for equipment and from the New Opportunities Fund were recorded. Because of these two factors, in 2004-2005, the amount allocated to university research increased by \$122.1 million; this amount is not taken into account in the following analysis.

In the six-year period ending in 2004-2005, the amount allocated to research rose by 9.8% annually. This spectacular increase can be explained in large part by the investments of the Quebec and Canadian governments in CFI projects. During the same period, CFI grants rose by 35.4% annually, from \$50.2 million to \$309.9 million. The amount of funding per research professor rose from \$90 006 to \$140 597,<sup>1</sup> representing an average increase of 9.4%.

From 1994-1995 to 2001-2002, the contribution of the Québec government represented 24.0% of total contributions to university research. The two following years, its contribution exceeded 27%, but dropped to 23.4% in 2004-2005. Between 1999-2000 and 2004-2005, the average increase was 9.9%.

During the same six-year period, the Canadian government's contribution<sup>1</sup> increased on average 12.8% per year. In 1999-2000, it represented 38.2% of total contributions, compared with 44.9% in 2004-2005. Contributions from the Canadian private sector grew an average of 6.5% per year from 1999-2000 to 2004-2005.

In 2004-2005, 77.1% of grants and research contracts were awarded in the fields of health sciences (29.6%), pure sciences (30.8%) and applied sciences (16.7%). Next came social sciences (6.6%), business administration (2.3%) and education (1.6%).

Health sciences received 41.9% of its grants and research contracts from the Canadian government, 17.6% from the Québec government and 29.0% from the Canadian private sector. The federal government also funded 46.0% of the research in pure sciences, compared with 26.0% for the Québec government and 19.8% for the Canadian private sector. In applied sciences, the proportions were 52.9% for the federal government, 18.6% for the Québec government and 20.3% for the private sector.

Funding for research in education varied between \$12.1 and \$22.8 million from 1999-2000 to 2004-2005. The average annual growth was 11.1%.

Since 2001-2002, the amount allocated to university research has exceeded \$1 billion, primarily because of the grants awarded by the CFI and its financial partners. During this four-year period ending in 2004-2005, the average increase in the amount allocated to research was 8.0%.

1. Excludes grants from the CFI and its partners for infrastructures and grants for direct costs from the federal government.

Table 1.17  
Funded and sponsored  
research according to  
the source of funding  
and per research  
professor

	1994- 1995	1997- 1998	1999- 2000	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2004- 2005
<b>Grants and research contracts (in millions of dollars),<sup>1</sup> by source</b>						
Government of Canada	234.3	210.6	275.4	449.4	643.2	649.1
Government of Quebec	141.5	143.5	167.7	293.9	372.1	337.5
Canadian private sector	132.1	165.3	180.8	215.7	232.9	268.8
Other sources	78.7	84.8	96.7	128.2	138.7	127.9
Total	586.6	604.5	720.5	1 088.0	1 386.8	1 383.3
<b>Number of research professors<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>8 906</b>	<b>8 144</b>	<b>8 005</b>	<b>8 460</b>	<b>8 654</b>	<b>8 970</b>
<b>Amount per research professor (\$)</b>	<b>65 866</b>	<b>74 226</b>	<b>90 006</b>	<b>128 605</b>	<b>160 250</b>	<b>154 214</b>

1. This refers to all research receiving direct assistance (grants, contracts, sponsorships, etc.) from either the university itself or outside organizations. Included are research projects conducted under the supervision of university research professors, for which funds have been put into specific accounts managed by the financial services or accounting department of the university, a hospital or a university-affiliated centre (as defined by the *Système d'information sur la recherche universitaire [SIRU]*).

2. This refers to career professors who occupy permanent positions in Quebec universities, regardless of whether they are currently involved full-time in teaching-related activities or on sabbatical or career development leave. They may also assume certain administrative tasks. For example, department heads, deans and assistant deans often continue to be active in teaching or research. However, our definition of research professor excludes administrators of services (library directors, registrars, etc.) and senior administrators (rectors and vice-rectors). (Source: Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport and Conference of Rectors and Principals of Quebec Universities, *Enquête sur le personnel enseignant*.)

Graph 1.17  
Funded and sponsored  
research, according  
to field of research,  
2004-2005 (%)

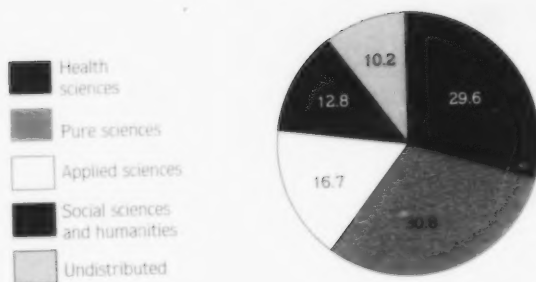


Figure 1  
 Funded and sponsored research according to the source of funding and per-researcher professor

	1994-1995	1997-1998	1999-2000	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Grants and research contracts (in millions of dollars), <sup>a</sup> by source						
Government	1,117	1,400	1,600	1,800	1,700	1,600
Private industry	1,100	1,400	1,600	1,800	1,700	1,600
Nonprofit	1,100	1,400	1,600	1,800	1,700	1,600
Other	1,100	1,400	1,600	1,800	1,700	1,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,417</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>6,400</b>
Number of research professors	8,995	8,141	8,005	8,460	8,654	8,970
Amount per research professor (\$)	65,880	74,220	80,006	86,600	80,250	71,214

Figure 2  
 Funded and sponsored research according to field of research in 2004-2005 only



## 2.1 School Life Expectancy

A child who began elementary school in 2005-2006 can expect to spend 15.6 years in the education system.<sup>1</sup> Since 1988-1989, 0.8 years of schooling have been added for male students, and 1.5 years for female students. School life expectancy has not improved from the 15.7 years observed in 1993-1994. For male students, it has even decreased by 0.4 years since then, standing now at 15.0 years. In 2004-2005, young people in Québec could expect to spend 15.6 years in school, or about the same amount of time as young people in France.<sup>2</sup>

A breakdown by level of education reveals that all increases since 1987-1988 are attributable to either adult education or postsecondary education. More than half of the additional schooling is a result of college and university studies. At the elementary and secondary levels, schooling rose by 0.44 years, resulting from an increase of 0.66 years in the adult sector and a drop of 0.22 years in the youth sector.

At the elementary and secondary levels, the actual duration of schooling more or less corresponds to the projected length of studies. This is not surprising given that enrollment at these levels of education is virtually universal and compulsory until almost the end of secondary school. The reason why the average duration of schooling is less than the length of programs at the college and university levels is primarily because not all students go on to postsecondary education.

School life expectancy does not necessarily correspond to the number of years of study begun and successfully completed because grades repeated are included in the average duration. The slight decline since 1992-1993 in the duration of schooling at the elementary and secondary levels can be explained by the decrease in the number of years that are repeated (see Section 2.7). At the elementary and secondary levels, male students attend school slightly longer than

female students (12.0, compared with 11.9 years) precisely because they have more difficulty. At the college and university levels, women tend to stay in school longer because more of them enroll in postsecondary education than men (see Sections 2.8 and 2.10). Women attend postsecondary school for an average of 4.3 years, compared with 3.0 years for men.

From elementary to university education, in 2005-2006, school-aged Quebecers could expect to stay in school for an average of 15.6 years.

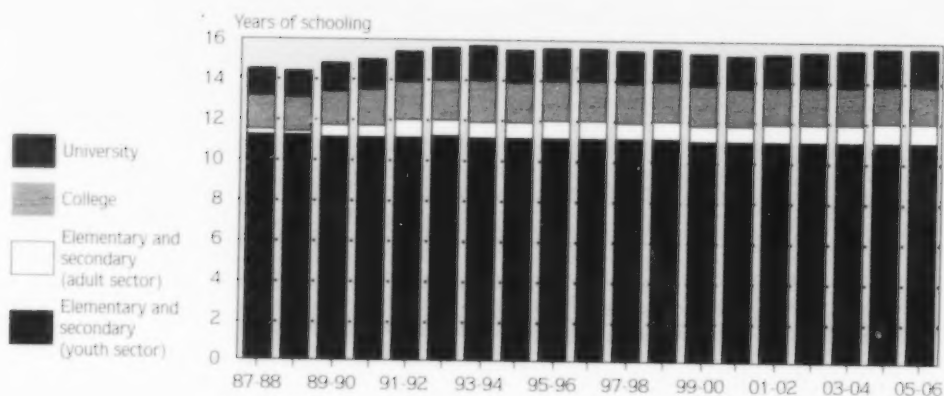
1. Technically speaking, school life expectancy for a school year is equal to the sum of the schooling rates (or school attendance rates) for full-time studies (or the equivalent) per year of age. A schooling rate is equivalent to the average number of years of schooling per person. The sum of the rates per age indicates the hypothetical duration of studies for a child who begins elementary school and who, throughout his or her progression through school, is in the schooling situation observed for a given year at various ages.
2. Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche, Direction de l'évaluation et de la prospective, L'état de l'école, Paris, Vol. 16, October 2006.

Table 2.1  
School life expectancy  
for a child entering  
elementary school,  
by gender and level  
of education (in years)

	1987- 1988	1988- 1989	1993- 1994	1998- 1999	2004- 2005	2005- 2006
<b>All levels of education by gender</b>						
Male	N/A	14.2	15.4	15.1	15.0	15.0
Female	N/A	14.8	16.0	15.9	16.3	16.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>15.6</b>
<b>Both genders according to level of education</b>						
Elementary (youth sector)	6.14	6.16	6.12	6.08	6.02	6.00
Secondary (youth sector)	5.09	5.03	5.01	5.00	4.99	5.01
Elementary and secondary (adult sector)	0.30	0.23	0.84	0.88	0.96	0.96
College	1.74	1.74	2.07	1.99	1.88	1.86
University	1.28	1.34	1.64	1.53	1.79	1.82

N/A: Data not available

Graph 2.1  
School life expectancy  
for a child entering  
elementary school  
(in years)



## 2.2 Enrollment in Preschool Education

**E**nrollment in kindergarten for 5-year-olds<sup>1</sup> has varied between 97% and 99% for a number of years. There is no significant difference between the enrollment of boys and girls in either kindergarten for 5-year-olds or kindergarten for 4-year-olds. In the past, enrollment in kindergarten for 4-year-olds varied between 6% and 9%; this rate has been significantly higher since 1994-1995 because children in Passe-Partout play groups are now included, and it stood at 19.9% in 2005-2006.

For a long time, children enrolled in part-time kindergarten for 5-year-olds<sup>2</sup> accounted for approximately 87% of all students in kindergarten, and this rate was the same for boys as for girls. In 1997-1998, with the implementation of full-time kindergarten, the situation was completely reversed as almost all boys and girls in kindergarten for 5-year-olds started to attend on a full-time basis.

Around the world, daycare centres, kindergartens, regular schools and families participate to varying degrees in the education of young children. In Québec, a relatively large portion of educational activities are entrusted to daycare centres, while the official education system becomes involved later in the child's life. Thus, in Québec, 5-year-olds are about as likely to attend kindergarten or elementary school as children in member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).<sup>3</sup> In 2003-2004, virtually all developed countries had universal access to school for 5-year-olds. On the other hand, with respect to educational activities for 4-year-olds, Québec is far behind those countries in which the enrollment of 4-year-olds is almost identical to that of 5-year-olds. Similarly, in Québec and the rest of Canada, 3-year-olds do not attend school; this is a rare exception among OECD countries. Moreover, the majority of children enrolled in kindergarten for 4-year-olds in Québec are in a Passe-Partout play group, which means that they are not really part of the school system.

Children with handicaps or with learning or adjustment difficulties account for 2.0% of students in kindergarten for 5-year-olds. For girls, the proportion was 1.2%, but more than double (2.8%) for boys.

**In 2005-2006, 97.8% of all eligible children attend kindergarten for 5-year-olds, almost all of them on a full-time basis.**

1. This refers to the number of children in kindergarten for 5-year-olds (regardless of their age) in proportion to the population of 5-year-olds, or 4-year-olds in the case of kindergarten for 4-year-olds. Very few children who are not 5 years of age on September 30 are enrolled in kindergarten for 5-year-olds, and even fewer children in kindergarten for 4-year-olds are not 4 years of age. Variations in the estimates of the population aged 4 or 5 may affect the calculation of these rates, probably more so than any other factor.
2. In kindergarten for 5-year-olds, part-time attendance means five half-days per week and full-time attendance, five full days per week. In kindergarten for 4-year-olds, part-time attendance means one to four half-days per week and full-time attendance, five half-days per week.
3. The OECD calculates net enrollment rates, that is, the proportion of children of a given age who attend kindergarten or elementary school. These two levels are combined, since there are major differences among countries. The net enrollment rate does not take into account whether children attend school part-time or full-time, or their hours or days of attendance. Here too, major differences can be seen among countries.



Table 2.2  
Proportion of  
children enrolled  
in kindergarten  
for 4-year-olds  
and for 5-year-olds (%)

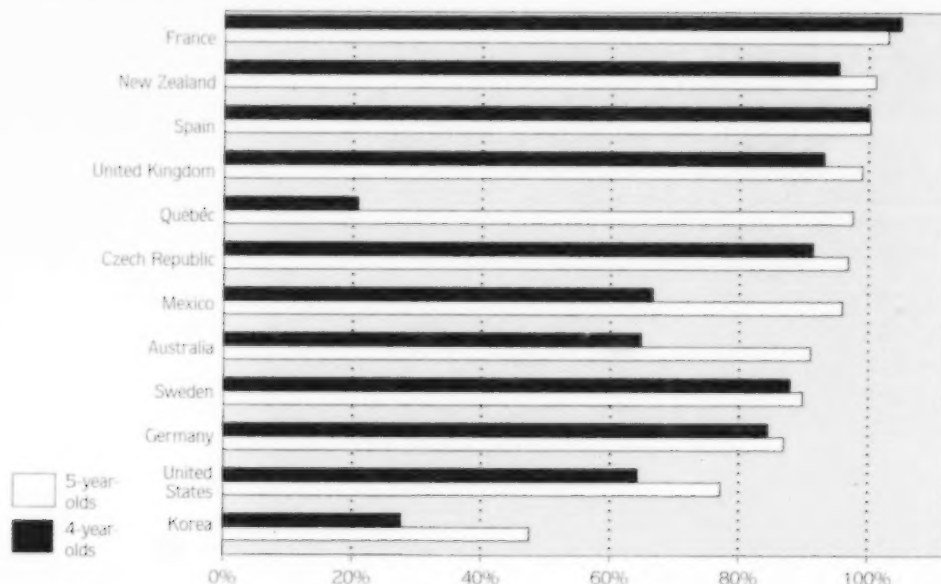
	1982- 1983	1992- 1993	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2004- 2005	2005- 2006
<b>Kindergarten for 4-year-olds</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>19.9</b>
Passe-Partout play group	—	—	11.0	11.1	11.6	11.7
Other categories	—	—	8.5	8.1	8.3	8.1
<b>Kindergarten for 5-year-olds</b>	<b>97.4</b>	<b>96.7</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>97.8</b>
Full-time <sup>1</sup>	—	9.2	98.1	97.2	98.1	97.8
Part-time <sup>2</sup>	—	87.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

—: Not applicable

1. Full-time: five full days

2. Part-time: five half-days

Graph 2.2  
Net enrollment rates  
for 4-year-olds and  
5-year-olds: Québec  
and various  
OECD countries,  
2004-2005 (%)



## 2.3 Enrollment in Secondary General Education – Youth Sector

**E**nrollment in Secondary V stood at 75.8% in 2005-2006. Enrollment in Secondary IV was 86.9%, a level never previously achieved, which means that enrollment in Secondary V will increase in 2006-2007.

From a more historical perspective, Graph 2.3 shows that enrollment in Secondary IV and V increased appreciably in the 1980s. This trend can be explained by the fact that admission to vocational training was delayed to ensure that students spent an extra year in general education. On the other hand, the drop observed in 1985-1986 (in Secondary IV) and in 1986-1987 (in Secondary V) was due to the raising of the pass mark.<sup>1</sup> There was a temporary decline in student retention, but it was not long before an upward trend took hold once again.

Enrollment in Secondary I is virtually universal;<sup>2</sup> in 2005-2006, it was 99.8%. In 2005-2006, 98.6% of young people were enrolled in Secondary II, and 93.7% in Secondary III.

In 2005-2006, differences in enrollment between female and male students appeared in Secondary II, where female students were ahead of the male students by almost 4 percentage points. The gap widened in Secondary IV to 7 percentage points in favour of the female students, to stand at 12 percentage points in Secondary V.

In 2005-2006, in general education in the youth sector, enrollment in Secondary V was 75.8%.

1. The new, higher pass mark was applied to students entering secondary school in 1982-1983.

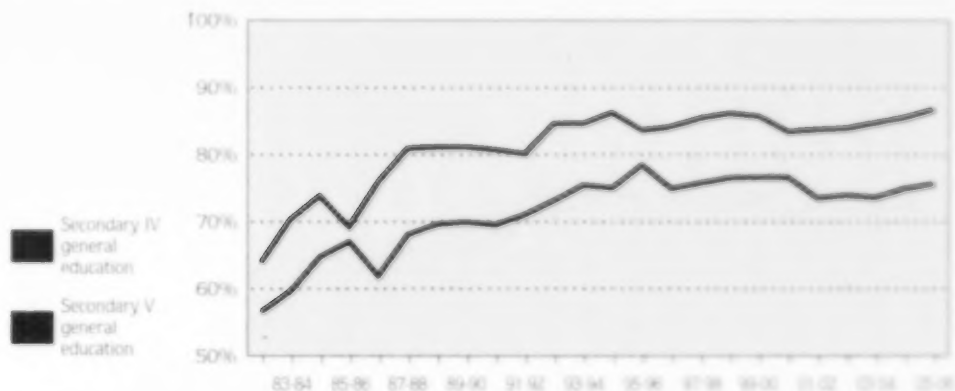
2. Some young people are not educated in the official education system. They may receive their schooling in reception centres, in schools that are not legally recognized or at home. This year, the rate slightly exceeds the theoretical maximum of 100%, no doubt attributable to an underestimation of Québec's population.

Table 2.3  
Proportion of young  
people enrolling  
in secondary general  
education in the public  
and private systems  
combined, by gender  
(%)

	1982- 1983	1992- 1993	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2004- 2005	2005- 2006
<b>Secondary I</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>99.0</b>	<b>98.7</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>99.8</b>
Male	99.5	97.7	98.7	98.2	99.6	99.6
Female	100.1	97.9	99.4	99.2	100.0	100.0
<b>Secondary II</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>96.7</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>97.3</b>	<b>98.6</b>
Male	95.0	96.1	95.2	97.0	96.4	98.2
Female	97.1	97.4	98.0	98.6	98.3	98.9
<b>Secondary III</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>94.0</b>	<b>93.7</b>
Male	82.5	90.0	90.6	89.8	91.8	91.9
Female	90.3	93.9	93.4	94.4	96.2	95.6
<b>Secondary IV</b>	<b>64.1</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>86.9</b>
Male	59.9	81.7	80.8	81.6	82.0	83.4
Female	68.6	88.0	87.5	88.3	89.6	90.6
<b>Secondary V</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>75.8</b>
Male	53.6	68.5	67.9	68.4	69.6	69.9
Female	60.0	78.3	80.5	79.5	81.0	82.0

Note: Students enrolled in vocational training are not included.

Graph 2.3  
Proportion of young  
people enrolling in  
Secondary IV and V  
in general education,  
public and private  
systems combined (%)



## 2.4 Enrollment in Secondary Vocational Education – Youth and Adult Sectors

The proportion of young people under the age of 20 enrolling in vocational training programs was 17.5% in 2005-2006. Since 1999-2000, enrollment of students already holding a Secondary School Diploma (SSD) has been relatively stable, and varied between 9% and 10%; it stood at 9.1% in 2005-2006.

Since short vocational programs were phased out in 1989-1990, most students who would normally have opted for these programs in the past are now enrolled in individualized paths for learning or, more likely still, in work skills and life skills education programs, which are a part of general education. Enrollment of students without diplomas was 8.5% in 2005-2006 and represented 48% of all people under the age of 20 enrolling in a vocational training program.

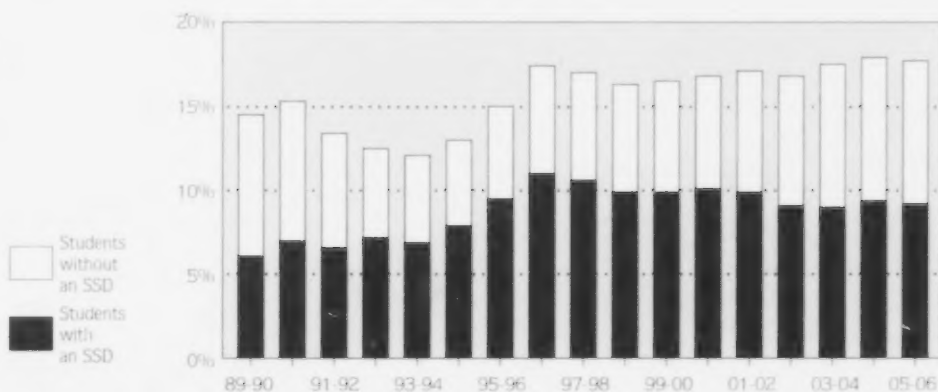
Vocational training programs attract more male than female students. Thus, in 2005-2006, 22.4% of male students opted for this path, compared with 12.5% of female students. This situation applies equally to students who had a diploma and to those who did not. This is the opposite of what has been occurring in general education in the youth sector (see Section 2.3), where female students tend to stay in school longer.

In 2005-2006, 17.5% of young people under the age of 20, more than half of whom already held an SSD, enrolled in vocational training.

Table 2.4  
Enrollment in vocational  
training of students  
under the age of 20,  
youth and adult sectors  
combined (%)

	1989- 1990	1994- 1995	1999- 2000	2003- 2004	2004- 2005	2005- 2006
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>17.5</b>
Students without an SSD	8.4	5.1	6.6	8.5	8.5	8.5
Students with an SSD	6.0	7.8	9.8	8.9	9.3	9.1
<b>MALE</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>22.4</b>
Students without an SSD	11.5	6.6	8.9	11.8	11.6	11.5
Students with an SSD	6.5	8.5	10.8	10.1	10.9	10.9
<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>12.5</b>
Students without an SSD	5.0	3.4	4.2	5.0	5.3	5.3
Students with an SSD	5.5	7.1	8.9	7.7	7.6	7.2

Graph 2.4  
Enrollment in vocational  
training of students  
under the age of 20,  
youth and adult sectors  
combined (%)



## 2.5 Enrollment in Secondary General Education – Adult Sector

Students who do not obtain a Secondary School Diploma (SSD) in the youth sector are not all dropouts. Many of them choose to pursue their studies in the adult sector.

In 2005-2006, 17.0% of school-aged youth under 20 went directly from the youth sector to the adult sector in general education without interrupting their studies. In 1984-1985, the rate was only 1.3%; there has therefore been a thirteen-fold increase. In view of this, the relatively low rate of 5.0% observed in 1992-1993 (see Graph 2.5) can be attributed to the changes made in the funding of educational activities for adult students in general education; at the time, this funding was part of a restricted envelope.<sup>1</sup> The increase observed in 1993-1994 (from 5% to 9%) was undoubtedly due in part to the fact that the envelope was once again opened for students 16 to 18 years of age.

An analysis of the proportion of students who, after interrupting their studies, return to school in general education in the adult sector reveals that the number of students aged 15 to 19 who returned to the adult sector was higher, until 1986-1987, than the number of students who transferred directly from the youth sector. Since then, however, the latter path has grown in popularity, and in 2005-2006, accounted for more than three quarters of all new enrollments of students under 20 years of age.

The adult sector does not limit its services to providing students leaving the youth sector with the opportunity to earn their diploma through an alternative system. Adult education is also open to those who already have a secondary school diploma but wish to add to their education. And even among students without a diploma who enroll in the adult sector, some simply wish to meet a short-term need, such as acquiring the knowledge or skills taught in a specific course.

In 2005-2006, 17.0% of students under 20 years of age transferred directly from the youth sector to the adult sector, an increase from the previous year.

1. As a result, the school boards had to encourage students to stay in the youth sector (whose envelope is always open), since funding for the adult sector was reduced in 1992-1993.

Table 2.5

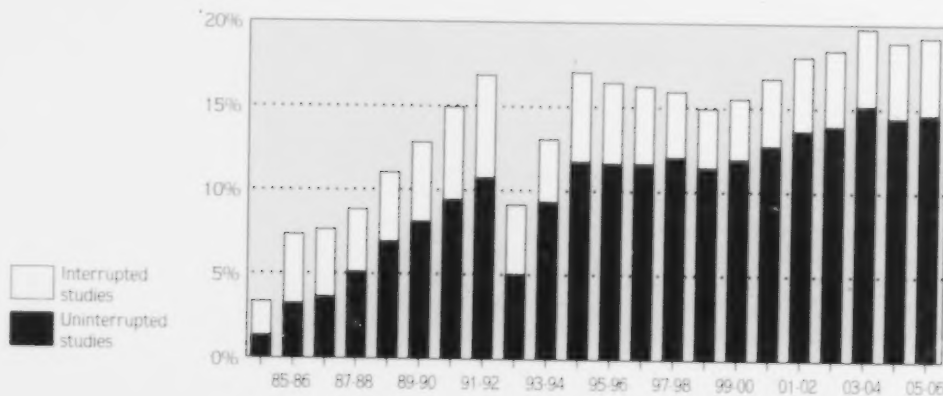
Enrollment in general education in the adult sector of students under the age of 20 without a secondary school diploma, by gender (%)

	1984-1985	1994-1995	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>22.4</b>
Uninterrupted studies <sup>1</sup> (directly from the youth sector)	1.3	11.7	13.9	15.1	14.4	17.0
Interrupted studies	2.0	5.3	4.5	4.6	4.5	5.4
<b>Male</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>25.8</b>
Uninterrupted studies <sup>1</sup> (directly from the youth sector)	1.4	13.7	15.7	16.9	16.2	19.5
Interrupted studies	1.9	5.8	5.1	5.2	4.9	6.3
<b>Female</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>18.8</b>
Uninterrupted studies <sup>1</sup> (directly from the youth sector)	1.1	9.7	12.0	13.3	12.6	14.3
Interrupted studies	2.0	4.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.5

1. Refers to students enrolled in the youth sector on September 30 of the preceding year.

Graph 2.5

Enrollment in general education in the adult sector of students under the age of 20 without a secondary school diploma (%)



## 2.6 Dropping Out of Secondary School

This section measures both official successful completion (graduation) and school attendance of those who have not yet received a diploma. The dropout rate is defined as the proportion of the population that does not attend school and has not obtained a secondary school diploma.

The dropout rate by age is obtained by measuring the proportion of the population with a secondary school diploma<sup>1</sup> by age, and the proportion without a diploma but still in school.<sup>2</sup> The two measurements are added together and deducted from 100.

Graph 2.6 shows the downward trend of the dropout rate since 1979. The increase observed in the 1980s is due to the raising of the pass mark, which made it more difficult to obtain a secondary school diploma (see Section 5.2). Results in recent years have been relatively stable.

The dropout rate in 2005 was 19.7% for 20-year-olds, 20.3% for 25-year-olds and 20.3% for 30-year-olds. An analysis of the data for a given age reveals that the dropout rate has declined considerably in the past 30 years: the rate for 17-year-olds went from 26.2% in 1979 to 10.5% in 2005, and the rate for 19-year-olds dropped from 40.5% to 19.7% during the same period.

Table 2.6 shows the difference in dropout rates for male and female students and indicates that women are less likely to drop out of school. In 1979, the gender gap was relatively small, but was somewhat more pronounced in 2005. For example, for 19-year-olds, the dropout rate for men in 2005 was almost half of what it was in 1979 (24.8% compared with 43.8%); for women, the rate in 2005 was almost one third of what it was in 1979 (14.4% compared with 37.2%). The situation of women has therefore improved more than that of men; this analysis also holds true for the other age groups in Table 2.6.

In 2005, 19.7% of 19-year-olds were without a secondary school diploma and were not attending school. This proportion was 40.5% in 1979.

1. The diplomas considered here are the Secondary School Diploma (SSD—including the Short Vocational Diploma and the Long Vocational Diploma), the Secondary School Vocational Certificate (SSVC), the Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS) (known as the Secondary School Vocational Diploma [SSVD] prior to 1998), the Attestation of Vocational Specialization (AVS), the Attestation of Vocational Education (AVE) and certification for on-the-job training in a recycling facility.

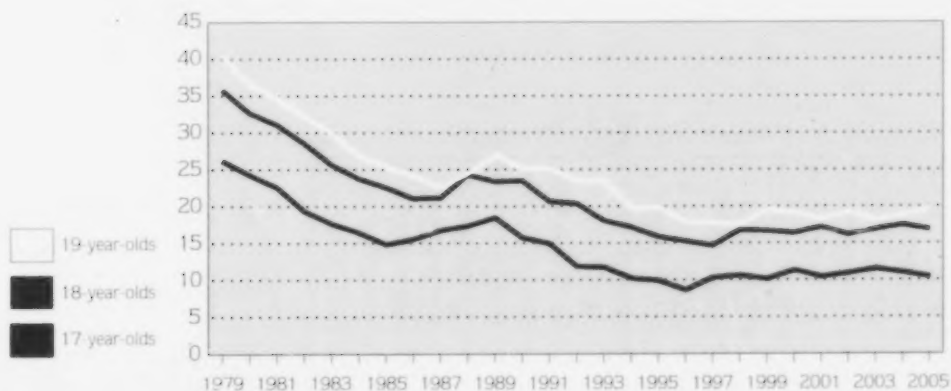
2. At either the secondary or college level. It is possible—although less and less so in the past few years—for a person without a secondary school diploma to be accepted in college. Persons who enroll in university without a secondary school diploma are not taken into account here.



Table 2.6  
Dropout rate by age  
and gender (%)

	1979	1989	1999	2003	2004	2005
<b>17-year-olds</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>
Male	27.6	21.3	13.2	14.3	13.9	12.9
Female	24.7	15.5	7.0	8.8	8.0	7.9
<b>18-year-olds</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>16.8</b>
Male	38.0	27.0	20.4	21.2	21.8	21.3
Female	33.2	19.5	12.6	12.1	12.8	12.0
<b>19-year-olds</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>19.7</b>
Male	43.8	31.0	24.5	23.1	24.0	24.8
Female	37.2	22.7	14.5	13.0	13.5	14.4

Graph 2.6  
Dropout rate  
by age (%)



## 2.7 Academic Delay in Elementary and Secondary School – Youth Sector

**A**cademic delay may be observed when a student in a grade level is older than the age expected for this level.<sup>1</sup> It is difficult for students to catch up when they are experiencing this kind of delay, because they would have to skip a year later on, which is rare, especially when they have already had enough difficulties that they have had to be held back a year or more. This is why, as shown in Table 2.7 (in elementary school in 1983-1984, for example), the proportion of students experiencing academic delay increases with each grade level: essentially, each year more students experiencing delay are added to this group but none are ever removed.

In more recent years, this cumulative effect in the proportion of students experiencing academic delay has been less visible because students in the third year of a cycle in elementary school (who, by definition, are all behind) are counted with the students in the second year, thereby increasing the proportion of students experiencing academic delay (among the students in the second year of a cycle).

On the contrary, in secondary general education, the proportion of students experiencing academic delay appears to be declining with each grade level (see Table 2.7: in 1983-1984, the rate went from 33.4% for Secondary I to 25.2% for Secondary IV). This is a result of these students dropping out (who, instead of being counted as students experiencing delay, are no longer considered at all present in the school system) or transferring to vocational training or adult general education.

In more recent years, this explanation seems to be less applicable: there is a certain stability from one grade to the next (about 23% to 27%). And yet, if a cohort (for example, students enrolled in Secondary I in 2002-2003, in Secondary II the following year, in Secondary III in 2003-2004 and in Secondary IV in 2005-2006), the proportion of stu-

dents experiencing academic delay goes from 27.5% to 27.4% to 26.5%, then to 23.1%. The rates decrease for the cohort because the students drop out or transfer to vocational training or adult general education.

Graph 2.7 shows the difference between girls and boys in terms of academic delay: more boys than girls are falling behind. For all elementary and secondary school students, the difference between boys and girls was 9 percentage points in 1983-1984. By 2005-2006, the gap had narrowed to 6 points. If secondary school students are considered in isolation (the proportion does not appear in Graph 2.7), 29.5% of boys were experiencing academic delay in 2005-2006, and girls, 20.7%, for a gap of 9 percentage points.

**In 2005-2006, 16.5% of elementary and secondary school students were behind in their schooling.**

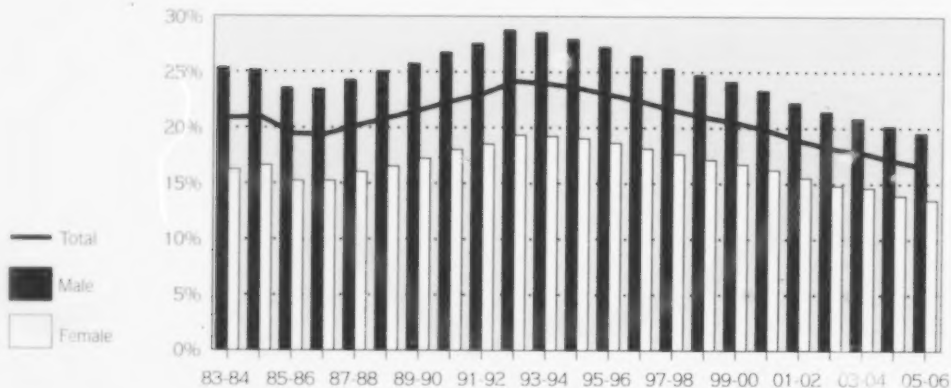
11. This is the case if a student is older than 6 years of age (as of September 30) and enrolled in the first year of Elementary Cycle One, or older than 7 years of age and in the second year of Elementary Cycle One, as well as if a student is older than 12 years of age in Secondary I, and so forth. All students enrolled in the third year of a cycle at the elementary level are considered to be experiencing academic delay, regardless of their age.

**Table 2.7**  
Proportion of  
students experiencing  
academic delay,  
by level of education  
and grade level (%)

	1983- 1984	1993- 1994	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2004- 2005	2005- 2006
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>16.5</b>
<b>Elementary<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>8.4</b>
1 (or A) (or 1.1)	6.5	8.6	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.0
2 (or B-C) (or 1.2+)	9.2	12.5	9.8	9.7	9.1	8.9
3 (or D) (or 2.1)	11.3	15.9	9.0	8.2	7.5	7.4
4 (or E-F) (or 2.2+)	14.3	17.9	13.0	11.9	10.5	10.3
5 (or 3.1)	16.1	20.2	13.2	12.3	10.4	9.3
6 (or 3.2+)	22.4	21.6	15.4	14.5	13.3	11.2
<b>Secondary school (general education)</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>25.2</b>
1	33.4	36.8	27.5	27.7	27.2	26.2
2	30.4	32.6	28.5	27.4	27.2	26.6
3	29.4	33.1	29.2	28.0	26.5	26.6
4	25.2	30.1	26.6	25.9	24.4	23.1
5	33.5	30.4	25.4	24.6	23.4	22.2

1. Elementary grade levels were referred to as **Elementary 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6** until 2000-2001. In 2001-2002, elementary school was divided into three two-year cycles. Thus, **A, B and C** were used to refer to Cycle One, and **D, E and F**, to refer to Cycle Two. **C and F** were used for students who remained in a given cycle for more than the usual two years. The fifth and sixth years of elementary school had not yet been affected by the reform. Since September 2002, a two-digit notation has been used: for example, **1.1** represents Elementary Cycle One, first year; **1.2+** represents Cycle One, second (or third) year, and so on.

**Graph 2.7**  
Proportion of  
elementary and  
secondary school  
students experiencing  
academic delay,  
by gender (%)



## 2.8 College Enrollment – Regular Education<sup>1</sup>

In 2005-2006, 59.6% of a generation of young Quebecers went on to college. This is 4.1 percentage points lower than the rate observed in 1996-1997, just before the drop in the secondary school graduation rate and the tightening of the criteria for admission to CEGEP.<sup>2</sup>

College enrollment (regular education) rose by 22 percentage points between 1975-1976 and 1986-1987 (from 39.3% to 61.2%), followed by a drop of 5 percentage points in 1987-1988. In the six years thereafter, it rose by 10 percentage points, reaching a new high of 66.9% in 1993-1994. Since then, enrollment has dropped by 7.3 percentage points for all young Quebecers.

Since the late 1970s, changes in college enrollment can be largely explained by trends observed at the secondary level in the youth sector. There is a close correlation between obtaining a secondary school diploma in general education in the youth sector or before the age of 20 in the adult sector, and enrolling in college. This correlation would seem to indicate that the majority of general education graduates, as well as a certain number of vocational training graduates, eventually go on to college.

Over a period of 15 years or so, the gender gap in college enrollment has widened steadily. Although rather negligible in the mid-1970s, the difference reached 19.0 percentage points in favour of women in 2005-2006, with only women having regained any ground in recent years.

College enrollment also varies depending on the type of education involved. The probability of enrolling in pre-university education dropped from 37.9% in 1995-1996 to 35.5% in 2005-2006, after peaking at 43.9% in 1992-1993. The probability of enrolling in college technical training declined from 21.6% to 18.1% from 1986-1987 to 1989-1990, returning to 23.2% in 1992-1993 and then settling at 16.4% in 2005-2006.

In recent years, the only regular education program where enrollment has increased is Explorations. In 1993-1994, 4.9% of students undertook college studies in this type of program; in 2005-2006, the figure was 7.7%, which, out of a total of 59.6%, represents more than one in ten new enrollments.

In 2005-2006, the college enrollment rate stood at 59.6%, which is a return to the situation that prevailed six years ago.

1. The figures mentioned here include only students enrolled for the first time in programs leading to a Diploma of College Studies (DCS) in regular education.
2. Since the fall of 1997, students who enroll in CEGEP must not only have their Secondary School Diploma (SSD), but must also have successfully completed the following courses: Secondary V language of instruction and second language, Secondary IV history and physical science, and Secondary V mathematics or comparable Secondary IV mathematics.

Table 2.8

Full-time or part-time enrollment in regular education in public or private colleges, by gender and type of education (%)

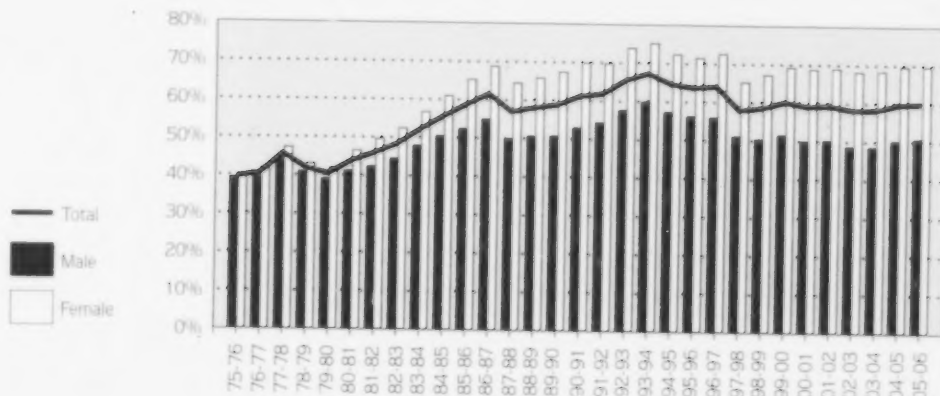
	1975-1976	1985-1986	1995-1996	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Male</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>50.3</b>
Pre-university education	25.4	34.2	31.5	27.1	28.7	28.9
Technical training	13.4	17.7	18.5	13.6	13.7	13.7
Explorations	-	-	5.9	7.5	7.4	7.6
<b>Female</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>64.9</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>69.3</b>
Pre-university education	22.5	41.0	44.7	41.9	42.2	42.4
Technical training	17.1	23.9	20.3	19.0	19.4	19.2
Explorations	-	-	6.1	7.1	7.6	7.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>59.6</b>
Pre-university education	24.0	37.5	37.9	34.3	35.3	35.5
Technical training	15.3	20.8	19.3	16.2	16.5	16.4
Explorations	-	-	6.0	7.3	7.5	7.7

<sup>a</sup> Estimates

- Not applicable

Graph 2.8

Full-time or part-time enrollment in regular education in public or private colleges, by gender (%)



## 2.9 Immediate Transition From College to University

The main objective of college pre-university education is to prepare students for university. In the fall of 2005, 77.9% of the class of 2004-2005, aged 24 or under with a Diploma of College Studies (DCS) from a pre-university program,<sup>1</sup> were enrolled full-time in university.<sup>2</sup> Also in the fall of 2005, 77.8% of female graduates of pre-university education were enrolled full-time in university, a slightly lower percentage than that of men in the same situation (78.2%).

Between 1993-1994 and 1998-1999, the proportion of pre-university education graduates who went on to university without interrupting their studies was between 78.6% and 84.0%. The rate decreased from 84.0% in 1998-1999 to 75.6% in 2000-2001. Although the method used to estimate the proportion of graduates enrolled in university immediately after completing college has changed somewhat since 2000, the data indicates a slight increase in the following five years. After the fall of 2000, there was a significant increase in the proportion of college graduates who enrolled in university full-time, which went from 75.6% to 77.9% in the fall of 2005. For several years now, the rate has been hovering around 78.0%.

In the fall of 2005, 25.0% of students aged 24 or under who graduated from a technical DCS program in 2004-2005 were enrolled full-time in university the following year, which represents an increase since the fall of 2000. This result is comparable to that observed the preceding year and confirms that more technical training graduates now go on to university: indeed, the proportion of these graduates going on to university has been close to 20% in the past four years, the highest since 1983-1984, despite the fact that these graduates would have little difficulty finding a job. This can be partly explained by the increase in the number of DCS-BAC programs<sup>3</sup> being offered.

More male graduates aged 24 or under with a DCS in a technical program have been enrolling full-time in university applied sciences (electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and computer science among others) and administrative sciences (especially business administration). Women in the same age group normally enroll in health sciences (mostly nursing sciences and nursing), administrative sciences (especially business administration and accounting) and social sciences (a number of fields, including social services). The 5.0-point increase in the proportion of female graduates from a technical program going on to university in 2004-2005,<sup>4</sup> can be

explained in large part by the transition of graduates from the nursing techniques program (180.A0) to the university nursing program, which also accounts for the overall increase in the proportion of college graduates going on to university this same year. The proportions remained steady in 2005-2006.

Of the class of 2004-2005, 77.9% of pre-university education graduates and 25.0% of technical training graduates went on to study full-time at university in the fall of the year following their graduation from college.

1. This refers to students who obtained a DCS between the months of September and August of a given school year. Education Statistics Bulletin 28 presents the figures for the immediate transition from college to university in 2000-2001. It can be consulted on the Ministère's Web site at the following address: <<http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/stat/Bulletin>>.
2. In 2001, the method used to estimate the proportion of college graduates going on to university without interrupting their studies was revised. From 1983-1984 to 1999-2000, estimates were based on the results of the Reliance surveys conducted by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, which present the situation of graduates of pre-university and technical programs as of March 31 following their year of graduation. In 2000-2001, the proportion of college graduates going on to university without interrupting their studies was based on administrative data from the *Système de gestion des données sur l'effectif universitaire (GDEU)*. For the purpose of comparing this data with data from the Reliance surveys, the GDEU system was used to calculate the proportion of students who earned a college diploma in 2000-2001 and who were enrolled full-time in a Québec university in the fall of 2000. Although the data is from different sources, the proportions obtained using both methods are a satisfactory representation of the situation observed between 2000-2001 and 2004-2005.
3. A university and college can conclude an agreement on a DCS-BAC program that allows students to avoid course content duplication by recognizing a certain number of college courses in university. The total length of studies is generally shortened by a year. Certain bridges also exist that allow for the recognition of certain college courses in university.
4. Fall of 2004 is when the first cohort of students enrolled in the five-year integrated nursing program went from college to university; this program was introduced in the fall of 2001 in Québec's college system.

Table 2.9

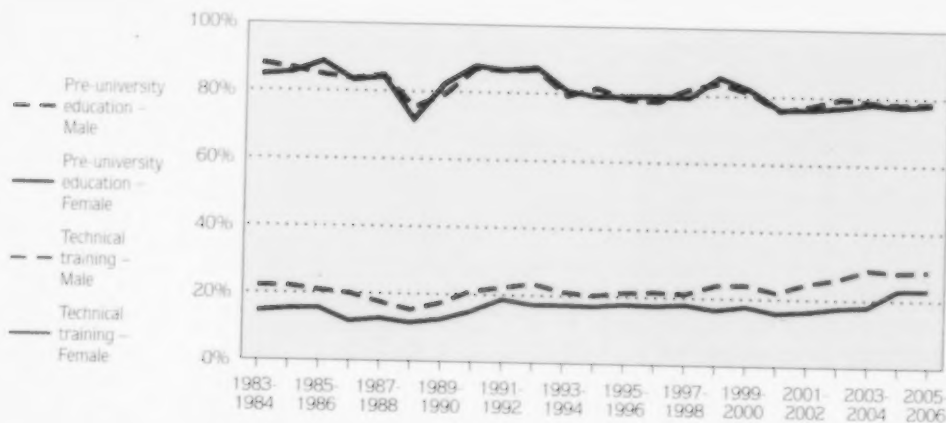
Proportion of college graduates (24 years old or under) enrolling full-time<sup>1</sup> in university without interrupting their studies, by type of education and gender (%)

	1983-1984	1993-1994	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
<b>Pre-university education</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>77.7</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>77.4</b>	<b>77.9</b>
Male	87.7	79.0	79.3	78.4	77.8	78.2
Female	84.3	80.5	76.7	77.9	77.1	77.8
<b>Technical training</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>25.0</b>
Male	21.9	21.0	25.9	28.8	28.1	28.5
Female	14.4	17.1	17.3	17.8	22.8	22.9

1. The statistics produced between 1983-1984 and 1999-2000 are based on government Relance surveys. They represent the proportion of college graduates who, on March 31 of the reference year, were not employed and were enrolled in university either part-time or full-time. Since 2001, statistics are from the Système de gestion des données sur l'effectif universitaire (GDEU). The statistics for 2000-2001 to 2005-2006 represent the proportion of students who earned a college diploma between 1999-2000 and 2004-2005 and who were enrolled full-time in a Quebec university the following fall. In the calculation of the indicator based on the Relance surveys, the inclusion of college graduates enrolled part-time in university and the reference date used (March 31) combined to produce a slightly higher result than that of the new indicator used since 2000-2001.

Graph 2.9

Proportion of college graduates (24 years old or under) enrolling in university without interrupting their studies, by type of education and gender



## 2.10 University Enrollment

This section concerns enrollment<sup>1</sup> in programs leading to a university degree at the bachelor's, master's or doctoral level. Enrollment in certificate programs and nonprogram studies is not measured here.

In 1992-1993, the proportion of a generation enrolled for the first time in programs leading to a bachelor's degree increased by one third over an 8-year period, climbing to 39.7%, from 30.1% in 1984-1985. From 1992-1993 to 1997-1998, there was a decline of 5.8 percentage points in enrollment in bachelor's programs, and the rate fell to 33.9%. A similar decline was observed in enrollment in pre-university college programs after 1992-1993 (see Section 2.8). Thereafter, the rate began to rise again, reaching 42.0% in 2006-2007. Women posted an even higher rate of enrollment in programs leading to a bachelor's degree at 49.4%.

From 1984 to 2006, only women showed veritable gains in enrollment in bachelor's programs: the rate increased by 18.1 percentage points, whereas men (34.8%) were 5.8 percentage points above the level observed in 1984-1985. The gender gap was 14.6 percentage points, whereas it had been 2.3 percentage points 22 years earlier.

With respect to master's programs, enrollment rose in recent years to 11.3% after having dropped in 1997-1998. Here too, gains were more favourable for women, whose enrollment rate was 11.8% in 2006-2007, compared with 10.9% for men. In 1984-1985, the difference was 1.5 percentage points in favour of men. At the master's level, women began showing definitive gains over men in 1993-1994. The overall increase in enrollment in master's programs between 1984-1985 and 2006-2007 was relatively greater than that observed at the bachelor's level.

The growing interest in doctoral studies is significant even though it applies to only a small portion of the population.

Enrollment rose from 1.1% in 1984-1985 to 2.8% in 2006-2007. Men continue to enroll in doctoral studies in slightly greater numbers (3.0%) than women (2.5%), but the number of women enrolling at this level has increased more rapidly in the past 20 years.

In 2006-2007, the proportion of students enrolling in university was estimated at 42.0% for bachelor's programs, 11.3% for master's programs, and 2.8% for doctorate programs.

1. Since the data on new enrollments generally used for this indicator was unavailable at the time of writing, preliminary data on enrollments provided by the Conference of Rectors and Principals of Quebec Universities (CREPUQ) was used for the 2006-2007 figures. More specifically, the annual variation in new full-time enrollments in programs leading to a bachelor's degree was used to estimate enrollment for 2006-2007, on the basis of the most recent data observed, that is, in 2005-2006. Data for programs leading to a master's degree or doctorate was estimated on the basis of variations in enrollment in these programs.

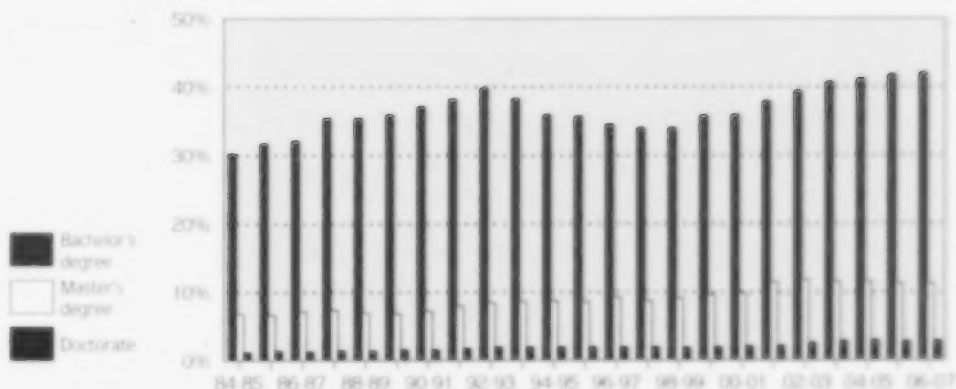


Table 2.10  
Enrollment in  
programs leading  
to a university degree,  
by gender (%)

	1984- 1985	1992- 1993	1997- 1998	2004- 2005	2005- 2006	2006- 2007 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Bachelor's programs</b>						
Male	29.0	34.8	28.9	33.9	34.4	34.8
Female	31.3	44.9	39.1	48.7	49.3	49.4
Total	30.1	39.7	33.9	41.1	41.7	42.0
<b>Master's programs</b>						
Male	7.5	8.5	8.4	11.4	11.1	10.9
Female	6.0	8.3	8.9	11.6	11.6	11.8
Total	6.8	8.4	8.7	11.5	11.3	11.3
<b>Doctoral programs</b>						
Male	1.4	2.3	1.9	3.1	2.9	3.0
Female	0.8	1.4	1.8	2.6	2.4	2.5
Total	1.1	1.9	1.9	2.9	2.7	2.8

a. Estimates (See Note 1 at the bottom of the text.)

Graph 2.10  
Enrollment in programs  
leading to a university  
degree (%)



## 2.11 Training of Researchers

Students enrolled in a program leading to a doctorate are the most likely to go into university research. In the fall of 2005, these students totalled 11 968, a peak since 1990.

More than three quarters of enrollment in doctoral programs is concentrated in social sciences, applied sciences, pure sciences and health sciences. In 2005, 28.8% of doctoral candidates were in social sciences, 20.7% in applied sciences, 14.9% in pure sciences and 12.6% in health sciences.

Men accounted for the majority of the students enrolled in a doctoral program (53.5% in the fall of 2005, compared with 46.5% for women). In 1990, the percentages were 64.7% and 35.3%, respectively. From 1990 to 2005, the increase in the number of women enrolled in doctoral programs (124%) was much greater than it was for men (41%).

In 2005, 80.4% of the men in doctoral programs were enrolled in applied sciences (30.0%), social sciences (22.8%), pure sciences (17.6%) and health sciences (9.9%). The number of men enrolled in business administration has increased the most since 1990, that is, by 181.4%, while the number of men enrolled in education and literature decreased by 25.6% and 18.3%, respectively.

The distribution of enrollments in doctoral programs differs for women and men. In the fall of 2005, 35.7% of the female students were in social sciences, 15.7% in health sciences, 11.7% in pure sciences, 10.0% in applied sciences, 7.6% in literature and 7.0% in education. The largest annual increase in female enrollment since 1990 has been in the arts (395.0%), law (303.2%), applied sciences (254.7%), health sciences (196.0%), and business administration (183.7%).

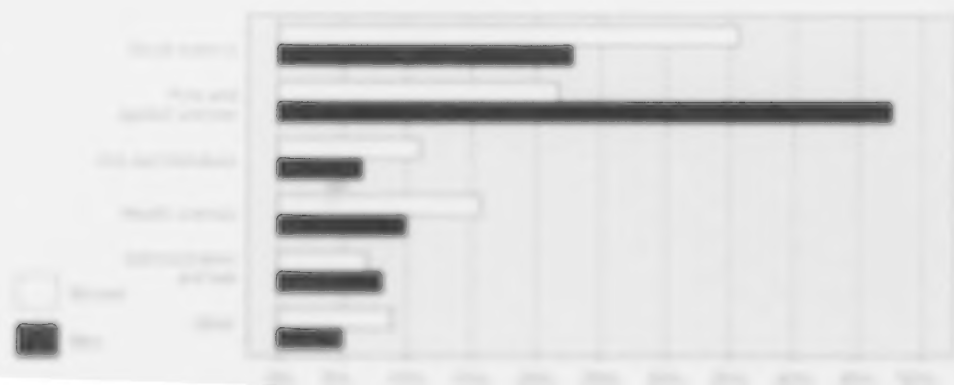
In the fall term of 2005, enrollments in doctoral programs grew by 7.1%, compared with the fall of 2004. This increase appears to be the result of a 7.3% rise in male student enrollment and of a 6.8% rise in female student enrollment.

Table 2.11  
Enrollment in  
doctoral programs,  
by field of study  
(fall term)

	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Arts	96	200	209	237	278	310	353
Literature	654	607	583	579	601	630	674
Business administration	258	494	508	558	623	695	738
Law	58	109	110	120	127	153	169
Education	549	558	504	526	553	565	590
Social sciences	2 168	2 721	2 685	2 749	2 989	3 251	3 449
Pure sciences	1 229	1 351	1 355	1 408	1 522	1 641	1 780
Applied sciences	1 276	1 389	1 446	1 711	2 020	2 304	2 477
Health sciences	662	1 114	1 149	1 246	1 353	1 447	1 512
Interdisciplinary studies	60	93	87	121	143	154	187
Not applicable <sup>1</sup>	27	17	23	25	33	24	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 037</b>	<b>8 653</b>	<b>8 659</b>	<b>9 280</b>	<b>10 242</b>	<b>11 174</b>	<b>11 968</b>

1. Not applicable for which there is no indication of the student's degree or field in which the discipline had received a doctorate degree.

Graph 2.11  
Enrollment in doctoral  
programs, by gender  
and field of study,  
fall 2005 (%)



### 3.1 Success in Secondary Cycle Two of General Education – Adult Sector<sup>1</sup>

Of the students in general education in the adult sector who left secondary school in 2004-2005, 14.6% obtained a diploma. If only students in Cycle Two are considered, the proportion more than triples, to 49.4%. Of the various instructional services<sup>2</sup> available, only Secondary Cycle Two normally leads to a diploma. Figures for new enrollments broken down according to instructional service are available as of 1988-1989 only. These figures show that the proportion of graduates was 23.2% for students leaving Secondary Cycle Two; the rate has therefore doubled since that time.

Although earning a diploma is not the most appropriate criterion for measuring success in the other instructional services, it can nevertheless be observed that the proportion of graduates is on the rise among students in all the instructional services in the adult sector. Since 1980-1981, this proportion has risen from 11.5% to 14.6%. This increase is due primarily to the fact that fewer students are dropping out of instructional services that do not lead directly to a diploma. Instead of quitting school, students pursue their studies in another instructional service, and thus enter Cycle Two and eventually earn a secondary school diploma.

Among students leaving school, the proportion who hold a diploma is higher for those under 20 years of age than for all ages combined. Thus, in Secondary Cycle Two, 62.1% of the students leaving before the age of 20 did so with a diploma; progress has been considerable in this respect, because the corresponding proportion for 1988-1989 was 36.3%. With respect to instructional services as a whole, the proportion of those under the age of 20 leaving with a diploma grew from 22.0% to 33.7% between 1980-1981 and 2004-2005.

In 1988-1989, the graduation rate was slightly higher for male students than for female students, but the situation

has since reversed. In 2004-2005, the graduation rate for female students exceeded that of male students by 3.1 percentage points, with the difference being 12.8 percentage points for those under 20 years of age.

Of the students under the age of 20 who were enrolled in Secondary Cycle Two in the adult sector in 2004-2005, 62.1% earned a diploma.

<sup>1</sup> Results in general education in the adult sector showing the proportion of new graduates among all general education students leaving secondary school with or without a diploma. This diploma constitutes those students leaving at the end of the last year of enrollment in the secondary cycle. If the student has not completed Studies in preparation for university without a diploma within this time, then about 20-25 graduates will leave the year following the last year of enrollment.

<sup>2</sup> The following instructional services are offered at seven offices in the past, in general education in the adult sector: Integration with Community Life Program (CITL), Environmental Integration Service, Job-Integration Service, Services for the Young Worker, New Entry Service, Adult Education in the Youth Sector (AEJ), Youth Learning, Employment Service, the Secondary Education, the Career and the Education Service, Secondary Cycle Two, youth learning, vocational training, integration service, integration service, the youth learning, integration, integration, service, the youth learning.

Table 3.1  
Proportion of students  
leaving general  
education in the adult  
sector with a diploma,<sup>1</sup>  
by gender, instructional  
service, age and last  
year of enrollment (%)

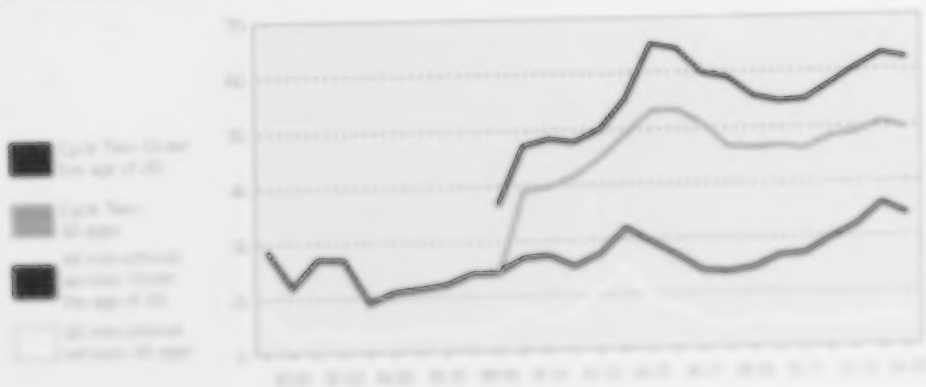
	1980- 1981	1988- 1989	1995- 1996	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2004- 2005 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Male</b>						
Secondary Cycle Two	N/A	22.7	50.2	45.5	47.2	45.6
Under the age of 20	N/A	36.2	61.0	56.9	60.3	58.1
All instructional service:	13.1	13.2	14.9	12.8	14.0	13.0
Under the age of 20	23.1	22.4	22.4	27.6	31.4	28.4
<b>Female</b>						
Secondary Cycle Two	N/A	23.6	55.9	52.0	54.0	53.0
Under the age of 20	N/A	36.4	67.5	64.8	66.1	66.4
All instructional service	10.3	15.3	20.0	15.6	17.2	16.1
Under the age of 20	20.8	25.8	33.2	37.9	42.0	41.2
<b>Total</b>						
Secondary Cycle Two	N/A	23.2	53.2	48.8	50.7	49.4
Under the age of 20	N/A	36.3	64.3	60.5	63.0	62.1
All instructional service	11.5	14.4	17.4	14.2	15.6	14.6
Under the age of 20	22.0	24.1	26.8	31.9	35.8	33.7

N/A: Data not available

(\*) Estimate

1. All secondary school diploma / high school diploma

Graph 3.1  
Proportion of students  
leaving general education  
in the adult sector with  
a diploma, by last year  
of enrollment (%)



## 3.2 Success in Secondary Vocational Training<sup>1</sup>

**O**f the students in vocational training<sup>2</sup> who left secondary school in 2004-2005, 61.6% obtained a diploma. If only those students truly considered to be working toward a diploma, that is, full-time students,<sup>3</sup> are considered, the proportion of graduates climbs to 85.6%.

Since the beginning of the vocational training reform in 1987-1988, the percentage of graduates has increased appreciably. For example, at the end of 2004-2005, the proportion of students graduating from programs leading to a Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS) (known as the Secondary School Vocational Diploma [SSVD] prior to 1998) was 73.0%, compared with 54.4% in 1990-1991. The success rate for long vocational programs has not increased much since the mid-1980s, but data on long vocational programs concerned only the youth sector. If only full-time students<sup>3</sup> are considered, progress is more evident. As noted earlier, the proportion of graduates among students enrolled for the last time in 2004-2005 was 85.6%, compared with 56.3% for students who completed their studies in 1980-1981.

However, if we consider all school leavers without taking into account the sector or whether enrollment is full-time or part-time, the proportion of diplomas has also increased since the early 1980s. Thus, the success rate of persons enrolled in vocational training for the last time in 1980-1981 was 46.6%, and it rose to 61.6% in 2004-2005.

There was a significant decline in the number of new enrollments in vocational training during the 1980s (see Section 2.4). Students are now required to spend more time in general education before being admitted into vocational training. General education graduates still have higher success rates in vocational training than students who do not already have a diploma. This explains in large part the higher success rate observed for all school leavers in recent years.

The differences in the results of male and female students have varied over the years. In 1980-2000, there was a trend in trends relating to graduation from programs leading to a DVS

and the success rate of female students surpassed that of male students (70.2% compared with 63.9%). In the past, the success rate for male students was 2 to 10 percentage points higher than for female students. However, when only the overall graduation rate by gender is considered, the success rate for female students has been higher for a long time. In 1985-1986, the proportion of female students graduating from vocational training was 36.2%, compared with 28.7% for male students; in 2004-2005, the proportions were 72.0% and 54.9%, respectively.

In 2004-2005, the success rate for male students in programs leading to a DVS dropped 3.2 percentage points and was lower than that for female students.

1. Success in vocational training is measured here by the proportion of new graduates among all vocational training students leaving secondary school with or without a diploma. The diploma counted are those obtained during or at the end of the last year of enrollment in the following year. If the student has not re-enrolled, students are considered to have left school without a diploma when they have been absent for a period of at least two years following the last year of enrollment.

2. Because school leavers are not required to attend vocational training enrollment ends when a diploma, attestation or certificate is not awarded, the denominator for this section also may be incomplete.

3. Students enrolled for 2001 studies leave an entry per year are considered full-time.

**Table 3.2**  
Proportion of students leaving secondary vocational training with a diploma,<sup>1</sup> by gender, category and last year of enrollment (%)

	1980-1981	1985-1986	1990-1991	1995-1996	1999-2000	2003-2004	2004-2005 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Male</b>							
Long vocational or DVS <sup>2</sup>	57.1	58.3	60.0	67.7	63.9	74.5	71.3
Full-time <sup>3</sup>	51.8	51.4	81.1	79.5	81.6	84.7	84.5
All male school leavers	48.3	28.7	21.7	46.2	50.7	56.2	54.9
<b>Female</b>							
Long vocational or DVS <sup>2</sup>	65.5	69.5	50.3	64.5	70.2	75.0	75.1
Full-time <sup>3</sup>	61.3	62.0	80.0	78.3	82.4	86.4	86.9
All female school leavers	45.2	36.2	39.3	54.0	65.7	71.1	72.0
<b>Total</b>							
Long vocational or DVS <sup>2</sup>	61.7	64.1	54.4	66.1	66.6	74.7	73.0
Full-time <sup>3</sup>	56.3	56.6	80.6	78.9	82.0	85.4	85.6
All school leavers	46.6	32.1	27.9	49.5	56.6	62.0	61.6

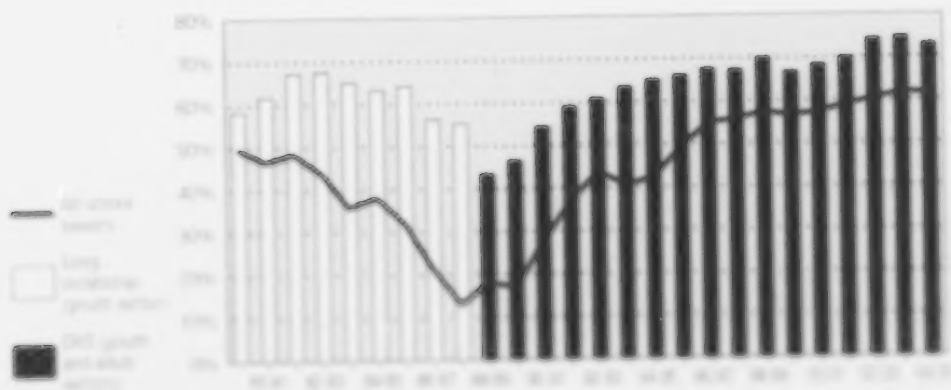
a. Estimates

1. All secondary school diplomas are taken into account.

2. Figures for 1980-1981 and 1985-1986 cover enrollment in long vocational programs only in the youth sector. After 1986-1987, figures take into account DVSs in the youth and adult sectors.

3. Students enrolled for 270 course hours or more per year are considered full-time.

**Graph 3.2**  
Proportion of students leaving secondary vocational training with a diploma, by last year of enrollment (%)



### 3.3 Success in Pre-University Programs in Regular College Education<sup>1</sup>

Of the students in pre-university programs who left regular college education at the end of 2004-2005, 72.1% earned a Diploma of College Studies (DCS). In the past two decades, this graduation rate has fluctuated between 63.9% and 73.3%. The success rate has increased since 1999-2000, when it stood at 69.3%. Before the drop in 1999-2000, an increase in success rates had been observed: from 64.7% in 1995-1996 to 70.2% in 1998-1999. The stricter admission criteria that came into effect in the fall of 1997 (see Section 2.8) largely explain this increase, because fewer of the students who are most likely to quit their studies are able to enroll in college.

Women tend to do better than men in pre-university programs, and the gap has grown over the years. In 1980-1981, the proportion of women finishing their pre-university education with a DCS surpassed that of men by 4.0 percentage points. In 2004-2005, the difference was 13.9 percentage points in favour of women (it was 10.8 percentage points in 1995-1996). This phenomenon, coupled with the fact that more women than men enroll in college (see Section 2.8) explains the gender gap with respect to graduation rates (see Section 5.5).

When the type of initial college program is taken into account, the success rate is slightly above average for students who began their studies in pre-university programs. In 2004-2005, it was 74.2%. Students arriving from technical programs had markedly lower success rates. Given that since 1994-1995 some graduates have also begun in Explorations programs, the success rate remained lower for pre-university program students who came from another type of program. This rate did not clear the 50% mark until 1998-1999 and reached 56.6% in 2004-2005.

In theory, it takes two years to obtain a DCS in a pre-university program, but very few students do so within this time frame. In fact, the rate of completion within two years (that is, the time elapsed from initial enrollment in a program leading to a DCS) reached 44.3% in 2004-2005 for students who began

their studies in a pre-university program. This rate was at its lowest point, 35.0%, in 1986-1987. If all pre-university program graduates are considered, regardless of the program in which they were initially enrolled, obviously their success rate for two-year completion will be slightly lower because students who transfer from other programs spend more time in school. Generally, the majority of the pre-university DCSs are obtained within five years of the start of college studies; in 2004-2005, the corresponding success rate was 72.8%.

Of the students in pre-university education competing their studies in 2004-2005, 72.1% graduated with a DCS; this figure has increased by 2.8 percentage points since 1999-2000.

1. Success in pre-university programs in regular college education. Measured here as the proportion of total graduates among all students in pre-university programs in regular college education who leave programs earning a DCS, with or without a diploma. DCSs of all types are included, whether or not they dropped during or at the end of the school year to which the required credit applied, or the following year. If the student has not been able to acquire leading to a DCS. Students are considered "to have left school without a diploma when they have been absent for a school year and two years following last year of enrollment.



Table 3.3

Proportion of students leaving a pre-university program with a DCS, by last year of enrollment in regular college education, gender, type of initial program, and time elapsed<sup>1</sup> since initial enrollment (%)

	1980-1981	1990-1991	1995-1996	1999-2000	2003-2004	2004-2005 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Male and female</b>						
Same type of initial program						
2 years or less <sup>1</sup>	N/A	40.5	36.6	42.6	44.2	44.3
5 years or less <sup>1</sup>	N/A	70.8	65.2	70.0	73.6	72.8
All durations	N/A	72.0	66.5	71.3	74.9	74.2
<b>Other type of initial program<sup>2</sup></b>						
All durations	N/A	61.3	47.5	53.7	54.0	56.6
<b>All types of initial programs—all durations</b>						
Male and female	66.8	71.4	64.7	69.3	72.4	72.1
Male	64.9	66.2	58.7	61.7	64.4	64.1
Female	68.8	75.8	69.5	74.7	78.2	78.0

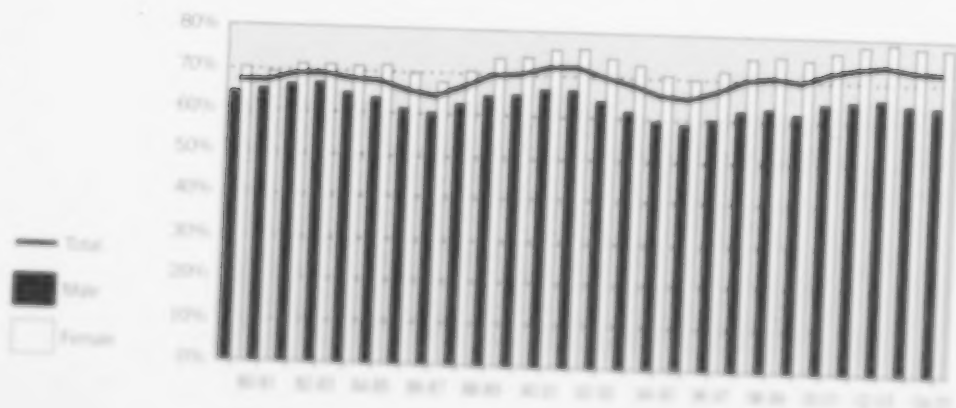
a. Estimates

N/A: Data not available

1. The time elapsed since initial enrollment is not necessarily the same as the duration of studies, because the studies may have been interrupted at some point

2. Until 1993-1994, this category referred to students who began their studies in a technical program. As of 1994-1995, this category also includes students who have pre-university education (with or without a diploma) after having begun in an *Épave* school the previous year.

Graph 3.3  
Proportion of students leaving a pre-university program with a DCS, by gender and last year of enrollment in regular college education (%)



### 3.4 Success in Technical Programs in Regular College Education<sup>1</sup>

Of the students in regular college education who left technical programs at the end of 2004-2005, 62.3% earned a Diploma of College Studies (DCS). Over the past two decades, this graduation rate has fluctuated between 52.7% and 63.2%.

In this area, women still do better than men. The gender gap was at its greatest (17.1 percentage points) in 1997-1998 and narrowed by 3.8 percentage points in 2004-2005, when the success rate for women was 68.1% compared with 54.8% for men, a difference of 13.3 percentage points in favour of women. This phenomenon, coupled with the fact that more women than men enroll in college (see Section 2.8), explains the difference between the sexes with respect to graduation rates (see Section 5.5).

When the type of initial college program is taken into account, in 2004-2005, the success rate was slightly higher than the average for students who began their studies in technical programs. Moreover, until 1993-1994, students who began in pre-university programs and who transferred to technical programs had markedly higher success rates. Since 1994-1995, the success rates of students who began their college studies in programs other than technical programs were brought down by the rates of students in Explorations programs (introduced in 1993-1994).

In theory, it takes three years to earn a DCS in a technical program, but very few students do so within this time frame. In fact, the rate of completion within three years (that is, the time elapsed from initial enrollment in a program leading to a DCS) was 34.1% in 2004-2005 for all students who began in technical programs. If all technical training graduates are considered, regardless of the program in which they were initially enrolled, obviously their success rate for three-year completion will be slightly lower because students who transfer spend more time in school.

Generally, a higher proportion of technical DCSs are obtained within five years of the start of college studies; in 2004-2005, the corresponding success rate was 55.4%.

Of the students in technical programs completing their studies in 2004-2005, 62.3% earned a DCS; this percentage has increased slightly in recent years.

<sup>1</sup> Success in technical programs in regular college education is measured here by the proportion of new graduates among all students in technical programs in regular college education who leave programs leading to a DCS, with or without a diploma. DCSs of all types are counted, whether they were obtained during or at the end of the school year in which the student was last enrolled in the following year. If the student then left or transferred to a program leading to a DCS, students who transferred to leave will count without a diploma when they leave their school for a period of at least two years following the last year of enrollment.

**Table 3.4**  
Proportion of students leaving a technical program with a DCS, by last year of enrollment in regular college education, gender, type of initial program, and time elapsed since initial enrollment<sup>1</sup> (%)

	1980-1981	1990-1991	1995-1996	1999-2000	2003-2004	2004-2005 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Male and female</b>						
Same type of initial program						
3 years or less <sup>1</sup>	N/A	29.6	26.8	31.6	36.1	34.1
5 years or less <sup>1</sup>	N/A	51.1	47.8	52.4	57.2	55.4
All durations	N/A	56.6	53.1	57.6	63.8	62.1
Other type of initial program <sup>2</sup>						
All durations	N/A	64.4	55.7	57.8	62.0	62.6
<b>All types of initial programs—all durations</b>						
Male and female	59.0	58.6	53.9	57.7	63.2	62.3
Male	53.9	54.7	46.1	50.1	55.8	54.8
Female	63.0	61.3	60.9	64.6	69.2	68.1

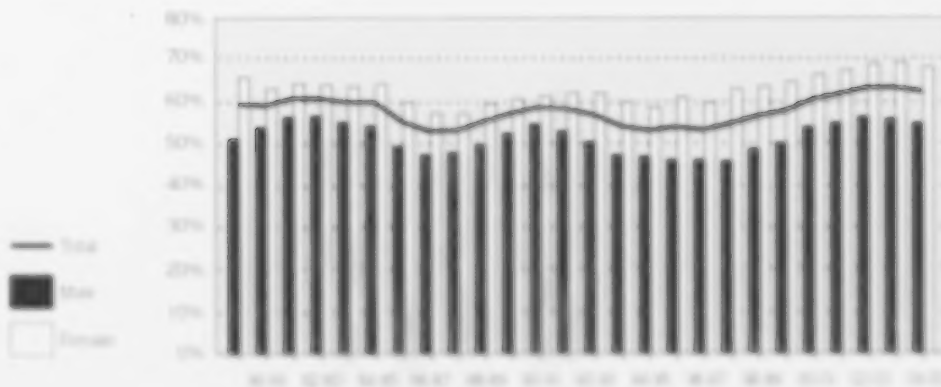
<sup>a</sup> Estimate

N/A: Data not available

<sup>1</sup> The time elapsed since initial enrollment is not necessarily the same as the duration of studies, because the studies may have been interrupted at some point.

<sup>2</sup> Until 1993-1994, this category referred to students who began their studies in a pre-university program. As of 1994-1995, this category also includes students who left technical training (with or without a diploma after having begun in an Externship program) the previous year.

**Graph 3.4**  
Proportion of students leaving a technical program with a DCS, by gender and last year of enrollment in regular college education



## 3.5 Duration of Studies in Regular College Education

The duration of studies for graduates with a Diploma of College Studies (DCS) and for all students (regardless of whether or not they obtain a DCS) has changed very little over the years.<sup>1</sup>

Graduates from pre-university education have studied for an average of 2.4 years. For those who leave without a diploma, the total duration of studies is still an average of 1.5 years. The average duration of studies, whether students leave with or without a diploma, is 2.1 years.<sup>2</sup> For most students, that is, those who began their college studies directly in pre-university programs, the corresponding durations are similar or are 0.1 years less. Students who transferred from another type of program take 3.2 years to obtain their DCS in pre-university education.

Students in technical programs taken average of 3.9 years to earn a DCS, while those who leave without a diploma do so after 2.2 years. Given the success rate (see Section 3.4), students leaving technical programs study for 3.3 years. Here too, those students who enroll in technical programs right from the beginning of their college studies leave in a shorter time: those leaving with a DCS do so in 3.5 years and those leaving without a diploma do so after 1.8 years. However, students who had initially enrolled in pre-university programs (who have a high success rate) or in Explorations programs take 4.5 years to obtain a DCS in technical training.

Very slight differences in the duration of studies are apparent in the figures for men and women, and according to the status upon leaving. In pre-university education, female graduates, like women who leave their studies before obtaining a diploma, do so sooner (0.1 years) than men. This difference disappears, however, when college leavers overall are considered by gender (since more women than men obtain a diploma, thereby raising the average duration

of studies for women overall). The same effect can be observed in technical training, where female graduates study 0.1 years less than their male counterparts, while women who leave their studies before obtaining a diploma spend the same amount of time in school as men (average of 2.2 years).

On average, a DCS in pre-university education is obtained after 2.4 years equivalent to full-time study and a DCS in technical training, after 3.9 years.

1. This is why the results provided in this section are the averages for college leavers for the last five years observed (that is, the averages for students enrolled for the last time from 2000/2001 to 2004/2005). However, in the case of students leaving without a diploma over a 10-year period, the duration of studies before dropping out has lengthened, by 0.4 full-time years for pre-university education and by 1.1 full-time years for technical training.

2. The duration of studies for all college leavers depends, on the one hand, on the respective duration of studies of students with a DCS and college leavers without a diploma, and on the other hand, on the weighting of these two categories of students. That is, the success rate. This explains why the duration of studies for all students, whether or not they leave with a diploma, has remained stable, even though the success rate has been dropping and the duration of studies for those leaving without a diploma has been getting longer.

**Table 3.5**  
Average number of years<sup>1</sup>  
of study completed  
before leaving regular  
college education  
(average for all college  
leavers after 2000-2001),  
by gender and type of  
program enrolled  
in at the start and finish  
of the studies

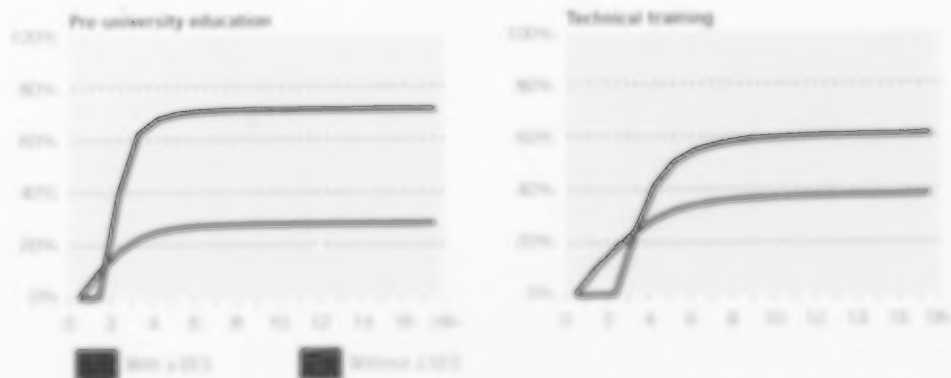
	With Diploma		Without Diploma <sup>2</sup>		Total	
	Pre-university education	Technical training	Pre-university education	Technical training	Pre-university education	Technical training
Male	2.5	3.9	1.6	2.2	2.2	3.2
Female	2.4	3.8	1.4	2.1	2.1	3.3
<b>Total<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>
Type of initial program						
Same	2.3	3.5	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.8
Different <sup>2</sup>	3.2	4.5	2.1	2.9	2.7	3.9

1. One year of full-time study is equivalent here to two full-time terms or eight part-time terms.

2. Refers to students who have interrupted their studies for at least one consecutive term.

3. Refers to the total duration, including studies undertaken previously in other types of programs.

**Graph 3.5**  
Cumulation school-leaving rates for  
regular college  
education between  
2000-2001 and  
2004-2005, by number  
of years elapsed since  
initial enrollment in a  
program leading to  
a DCS (%)



## 3.6 Success and Duration of Studies in Bachelor's Programs<sup>1</sup>

**A**t the end of 2004-2005, 67.6% of students leaving a bachelor's program earned their degree. In the 17-year period observed, the graduation rate increased from 55.9% for students enrolled for the last time in 1987-1988.

From the beginning of the period under observation, female students have had higher success rates than male students, with the difference rising from 0.7 to 6.4 percentage points between 1987-1988 and 2004-2005, a maximum gap of 7.7 percentage points in 1996-1997. In the full year observed, 70.2% of female students who left a bachelor's program did so with a degree, compared with 63.8% of their male counterparts. This phenomenon, coupled with the fact that more women than men enroll in bachelor's programs (see Section 2.10), explains the gender gap with respect to graduation rates (see Section 5.6).

Graduates of bachelor's programs have studied for an average of 6.5 full-time terms, or for 8.8 terms if full-time or part-time status is not taken into account.<sup>2</sup> Those who leave without a degree study an average of 2.6 terms, or slightly more than one year, full-time. For all students leaving bachelor's programs, the average duration of studies is 7.2 terms, 5.1 of which are full-time.

Differences in the duration of studies are apparent in the figures for men and women, and according to the attendance status upon leaving. Whether women obtain a bachelor's degree or give up their studies without a degree, they do so sooner than men do. Women who obtain a bachelor's degree spend 0.4 fewer terms in full-time studies than men, while women who leave their program without a degree do so 0.4 terms sooner than men. Nevertheless, when the duration of studies is considered, regardless of full- or part-time status, the gender difference is not as pronounced, because more women than men study part-time. For all students leaving bachelor's programs, the gender difference is

less evident, mainly because more women than men obtain a degree, which raises the average duration of studies for women overall.

**Of the students leaving a bachelor's program at the end of 2004-2005, more than two-thirds (67.6%) earned a degree.**

1. Success in completing bachelor's programs is measured here by the graduation rate, the percentage among all students leaving the program with or without a degree. The degree takes into account performance in degree-requiring courses in all the years of the grant year in which the student was first enrolled, or the following year, if the student has not graduated in an undergraduate program. Students who transfer to degree programs who eventually leave with a bachelor's degree will also have been observed in a grant year if at least one year of schooling overlapped a grant year.

2. Duration of the study is determined not only by the average number of semesters studied. The number of semesters of part-time study (less than 12 credits) is also taken into account. For example, the duration of part-time study is 1.5 times the number of semesters of part-time study. The duration of full-time study is the number of semesters of full-time study.

**Table 3.4a**  
Proportion of students  
graduating from  
a bachelor's program,  
by gender and last year  
of enrollment (%)

	1987- 1990	1991- 1994	1995- 1998	1999- 2003	2004- 2006	2007- 2010
Male	55.5	59.7	61.7	64.0	63.6	63.8
Female	56.2	63.1	69.0	69.8	70.6	70.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>67.7</b>	<b>67.6</b>

Source: Authors.

**Table 3.4b**  
Average number  
of terms completed  
before leaving a  
bachelor's program  
(average for all leavers  
after 1999-2000),  
by gender

	With Degree		Without Degree <sup>1</sup>		Total	
	Full-time	All attendance students <sup>2</sup>	Full-time	All attendance students <sup>2</sup>	Full-time	All attendance students <sup>2</sup>
Male	6.6	9.0	2.8	4.5	5.2	7.2
Female	6.4	8.7	2.4	4.4	5.0	7.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>

1. Refers to students who have interrupted their studies for at least one consecutive term.

2. Refers to the total number of full- and part-time students.

**Graph 3.4**  
Proportion of students  
graduating from a  
bachelor's program,  
by gender and last year  
of enrollment (%)



## 3.7 Success and Duration of Studies in Master's Programs<sup>1</sup>

**A**t the end of 2004-2005, 70.9% of students leaving a master's program earned their degree. This is a gain of 14.8 percentage points since 1987-1988.

In 1987-1988, relatively fewer women than men seeking a master's degree pursued their studies to graduation. Since then, women have taken the lead and now have a higher success rate than men. In 2004-2005, 72.4% of women leaving a master's program did so with a degree, for an increase of 17.4 percentage points since 1987-1988. The corresponding increase for men was 12.5 percentage points; 69.5% of men leaving a master's program did so with a degree in 2004-2005. This phenomenon, coupled with the fact that more women than men enroll in master's programs (see Section 2.10), explains the gender gap with respect to graduation rates (see Section 5.6).

Graduates of master's programs are enrolled for an average of 7.0 terms, regardless of whether they study on a full-time or part-time basis.<sup>2</sup> On average, students spend 4.2 terms in full-time studies. The total average duration of studies for students who leave without a degree is 4.9 terms, whether full-time or part-time. For all students leaving master's programs, the average duration of studies is 6.2 terms, 3.5 of which are full-time. The duration of studies referred to here is the actual duration and is not consistent with the calculation of full-time equivalents (FTEs) for funding purposes, where a standardized duration is generally recognized for a master's program with a thesis. In these cases, the "funded" duration is a maximum of 4 terms (1.5 years in FTEs) for master's programs. However, the actual duration of studies exceeds this standard for all types of attendance status. This means that students who leave without a master's degree are in practice fully funded, with the exception of a supplementary amount of \$1 000 that is allocated to universities when the degree is awarded.

Differences in the duration of studies are apparent in the figures for men and women, and according to the attendance status upon leaving. Contrary to what was observed at the college level and in bachelor's programs, women enrolled in master's programs do not take less time than men to obtain their degree.

Of 100 students leaving a master's program at the end of 2004-2005, approximately 71 earned a degree, after an average of 7.0 terms of study.

1. Success in university master's programs is measured here by the proportion of new graduates among all students leaving the programs with or without a degree. The degrees taken into account are master's degrees obtained during or at the end of the school year in which the student was last enrolled, or the following year, if the student has not re-enrolled in a graduate program leading to a master's degree. Students are considered to have left school without a degree when they have been absent for a period of at least two years following the last year of enrollment.

2. A portion of the studies is done part-time and is added to the average duration of full-time studies. For graduates, the duration of part-time studies varies from 2.8 to 3.5 terms. For those who leave without a degree, the duration of part-time studies is from 2.4 to 3.0 terms. For all school leavers, the duration of part-time studies varies from 2.7 to 3.3 terms.



Table 3.7a  
Proportion of students  
graduating from  
a master's program,  
by gender and last year  
of enrollment (%)

	1987- 1988	1990- 1991	1995- 1996	2002- 2003	2003- 2004 <sup>e</sup>	2004- 2005 <sup>e</sup>
Male	57.0	64.4	63.7	69.1	69.4	69.5
Female	55.0	64.5	67.5	71.7	73.1	72.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>70.3</b>	<b>71.2</b>	<b>70.9</b>

<sup>e</sup> Estimates

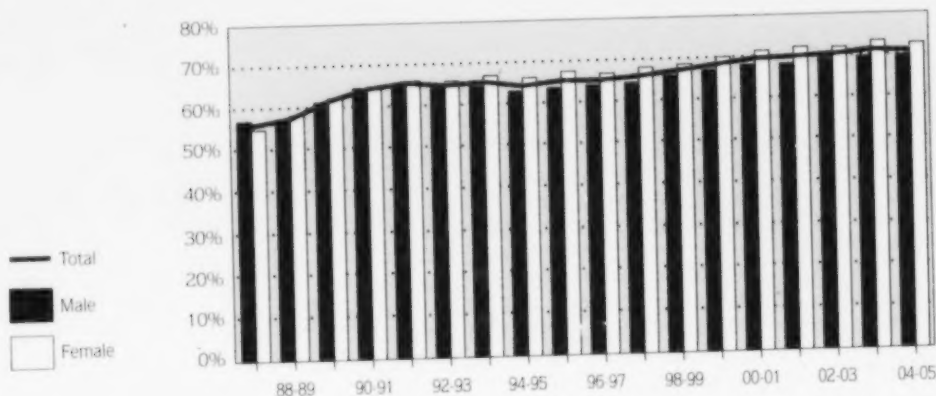
Table 3.7b  
Average number  
of terms completed  
before leaving  
a master's program  
(average for all leavers  
after 1999-2000),  
by gender

	With Degree		Without Degree <sup>1</sup>		Total	
	Full-time	All attendance statuses <sup>2</sup>	Full-time	All attendance statuses <sup>2</sup>	Full-time	All attendance statuses <sup>2</sup>
Male	4.0	6.7	2.3	4.7	3.4	6.0
Female	4.3	7.1	2.3	5.0	3.6	6.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>6.2</b>

1. Refers to students who have interrupted their studies for at least six consecutive terms.

2. Refers to the total duration of full- and part-time studies.

Graph 3.7  
Proportion of students  
graduating from a  
master's program,  
by gender and last year  
of enrollment (%)



### 3.8 Success and Duration of Studies in Doctoral Programs<sup>1</sup>

**A**t the end of 2004-2005, 57.1% of students leaving a doctoral program earned their degree. Since 1987-1988, this proportion has increased by 8.4 percentage points, but has also dropped from its high of 58.1% in 1996-1997.

Although traditionally fewer women than men in doctoral programs have obtained their degree, in 2000-2001, for the first time, more women graduated from doctoral programs than their male counterparts. Of the women enrolled in 2004-2005 who left doctoral programs, 54.9% earned their degree, for an increase of 14.6 percentage points compared with 17 years earlier. For men, the graduation rate increased by 5.6 percentage points during the same period, and the proportion of male candidates who completed their studies in 2004-2005 with a degree was 58.7%, or 3.8 percentage points more than for female candidates. For women, success rates have been steadily rising, while for men, they have been in decline since 1995-1996. This phenomenon offsets the fact that more men than women enroll in doctoral programs (see Section 2.10), but there are still more men than women who obtain doctoral degrees (see Section 5.6).

Graduates of doctoral programs are enrolled for an average of 16 terms, regardless of whether they study on a full-time or part-time basis.<sup>2</sup> On average, students spend 13.7 terms in full-time studies. Those who leave without a degree study for 9.5 terms, whether full-time or part-time. For students overall, whether they leave a doctoral program with or without a degree, they do so after 12.8 terms, of which 10.6 are full-time. The duration of studies referred to here is the actual duration and is not consistent with the calculation of full-time equivalents (FTEs) for funding purposes, where only a standardized duration is recognized. The “funded” duration is a maximum of 8 terms (3 years in FTEs) for doctoral programs. However, the actual duration of studies exceeds this standard for all types of attendance

status. This means that students who leave without a doctorate are in practice fully funded, with the exception of a supplementary amount of \$7000 that is allocated to universities when the degree is awarded.

Differences in the duration of studies are apparent in the figures for men and women, and according to the attendance status upon leaving. Contrary to what was observed at the college level and in bachelor’s programs, women enrolled in doctoral programs do not take less time than men to obtain their degree or to leave without one.

Of the students leaving a doctoral program at the end of 2004-2005, 57.1% earned their degree, on average after 16 terms.

1. Success in university doctoral programs is measured here by the proportion of new graduates among all students leaving the programs with or without a degree. The degrees taken into account are doctorates obtained during or at the end of the school year in which the student was last enrolled, or the following year, if the student has not re-enrolled in a post graduate program leading to a doctorate. Students are considered to have left school without a degree when they have been absent for a period of at least two years following the last year of enrollment.
2. A portion of the studies is done part-time and is added to the average duration of full-time studies. For graduates, the duration of part-time studies varies from 2.4 to 5.0 terms. For those who leave without a degree, the duration of part-time studies is from 2.3 to 3.0 terms. For all school leavers, the duration of part-time studies varies from 2.4 to 4.0 terms.

Table 3.8a  
Proportion of students  
graduating from  
a doctoral program,  
by gender and last year  
of enrollment (%)

	1987- 1988	1990- 1991	1995- 1996	2002- 2003	2003- 2004 <sup>e</sup>	2004- 2005 <sup>e</sup>
Male	53.1	55.5	60.9	60.4	57.1	58.7
Female	40.3	46.7	48.4	55.6	54.8	54.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>57.1</b>

e: Estimates

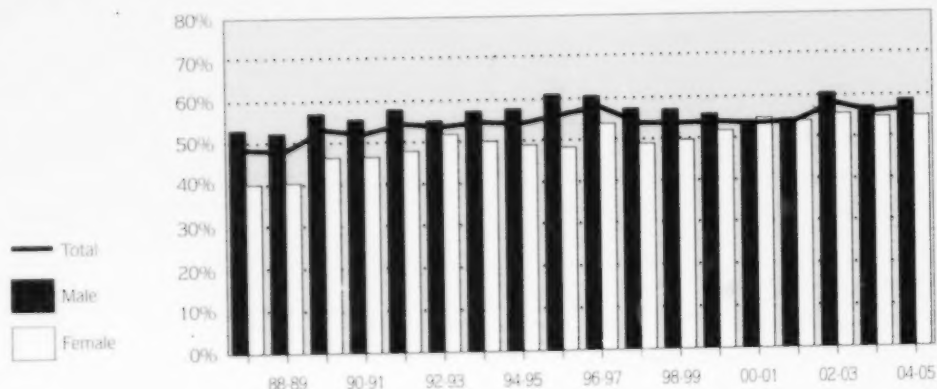
Table 3.8b  
Average number  
of terms completed  
before leaving  
a doctoral program  
(average for all leavers  
after 1999-2000),  
by gender

	With Degree		Without Degree <sup>1</sup>		Total	
	Full-time	All attendance statuses <sup>2</sup>	Full-time	All attendance statuses <sup>2</sup>	Full-time	All attendance statuses <sup>2</sup>
Male	13.6	15.5	7.6	9.5	10.6	12.6
Female	13.8	16.6	7.3	9.6	10.6	13.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>12.8</b>

1: Refers to students who have interrupted their studies for at least six consecutive terms.

2: Refers to the total duration of full- and part-time studies.

Graph 3.8  
Proportion of students  
graduating from  
a doctoral program,  
by gender and last year  
of enrollment (%)



## 4.1 Secondary School Examination Results, by Several Variables – Youth Sector

The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport administers uniform examinations to students in Secondary IV and V for purposes of certification. The average mark for the June 2006 examinations was 72.6%,<sup>1</sup> and the success rate was 83.2%.

While female students have a much better record than male students for staying in school, they have no clear advantage over male students with regard to the results obtained on uniform examinations. The slight difference may be because of the higher dropout rate among male students, for it is usually the weaker students who leave school before graduation.

The average mark obtained by students in private schools was 79.8%, 9 percentage points higher than the average mark obtained in the public system (70.8%). The success rate was 80.6% in the public system, compared with 94.2% in the private system. One of the factors likely to explain these differences<sup>2</sup> is that private schools can impose selection criteria for admitting students.

Students who received instruction in French obtained slightly better results on the examinations than students who studied in English. The average mark of students studying in French was 1.8 percentage points higher than that of students studying in English; the success rate of students studying in French was 2.2 percentage points higher than that of students studying in English.

The best results were obtained in Secondary V English, second language, and the poorest, in Secondary IV mathematics. The success rate was 86.6% for the Secondary V French, language of instruction, examination and 93.4% for the Secondary V English, language of instruction, examination.

Female students outperformed male students in French and English language of instruction. In the other subjects, there was little difference.

The success rate on the Ministère's June 2006 secondary school uniform examinations was 83.2%. Overall, female students performed better than male students.

1. This figure is calculated on the basis of the students' final marks. The final mark is made up, in equal proportions, of the student's result on the uniform examination and the "moderated" school mark. "Moderation" is a procedure that renders the marks assigned by different schools comparable by using the results of the uniform examination for each student group as the basis of comparison.

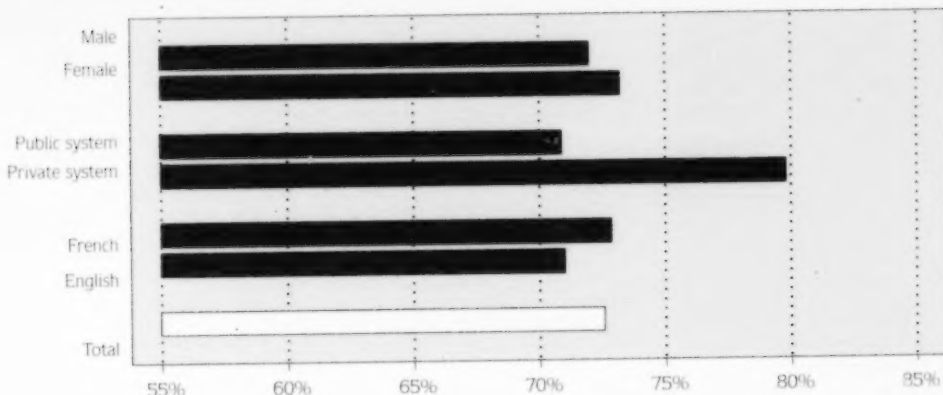
2. "The performance disadvantage observed in public schools largely disappeared after other school factors were taken into consideration. . . . In other words, after taking the effect of other school characteristics into consideration, including school average parental SES, public school attendance was associated with higher individual performance." See *Measuring Up: The Performance of Canada's Youth in Reading, Mathematics and Science—OECD PISA Study: First Results for Canadians Aged 15* (Ottawa: Statistics Canada, No. 81-590-XPE, December 2001), p. 44.

Table 4.1  
Results on secondary  
school uniform  
examinations in the  
youth sector, by gender,  
school system, language  
of instruction and  
subject: June 2006 (%)

	Average	Success Rate
Male	72.0	82.4
Female	73.2	84.0
Public system <sup>1</sup>	70.8	80.6
Private system	79.8	94.2
Language of instruction: French	72.8	83.6
Language of instruction: English	71.0	81.4
English, language of instruction (Secondary V)	73.2	93.4
English, second language (Secondary V)	81.2	94.6
French, language of instruction (Secondary V)	71.6	86.6
French, second language (Secondary V)	77.2	93.6
History (Secondary IV)	71.4	79.4
Physical Science 416 (Secondary IV)	71.4	80.2
Mathematics 436 (Secondary IV)	67.2	73.4
Mathematics 514 (Secondary V)	70.0	81.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>83.2</b>

1: Excludes the Cree School Board, the Kativik School Board and institutions outside the jurisdiction of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport.

Graph 4.1  
Average marks on  
secondary school  
uniform examinations  
in the youth sector,  
by gender, school  
system and language  
of instruction:  
June 2006 (%)



## 4.2 Regional Disparities in Secondary School Examination Results – Youth Sector

Six administrative regions recorded higher averages and success rates than the overall provincial results on the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport's June 2006 uniform examinations.<sup>1</sup> These regions are Capitale-Nationale, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Estrie, Montérégie, Montréal and Mauricie. Ranked among the lowest were Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec.

Regional disparities changed little from 2005 to 2006; however, the difference between the highest and lowest average marks rose from 9.1 to 16.6 percentage points, while the gap in the success rates rose from 14.7 to 26.2 percentage points. These differences are attributable to a significant drop in the average mark and success rate observed in the Nord-du-Québec region.

The results on uniform examinations are not necessarily indicative of the probability of obtaining a secondary school diploma. In some regions, it is possible that a low student retention rate contributes to higher marks on the uniform examinations because the weakest students have dropped out.

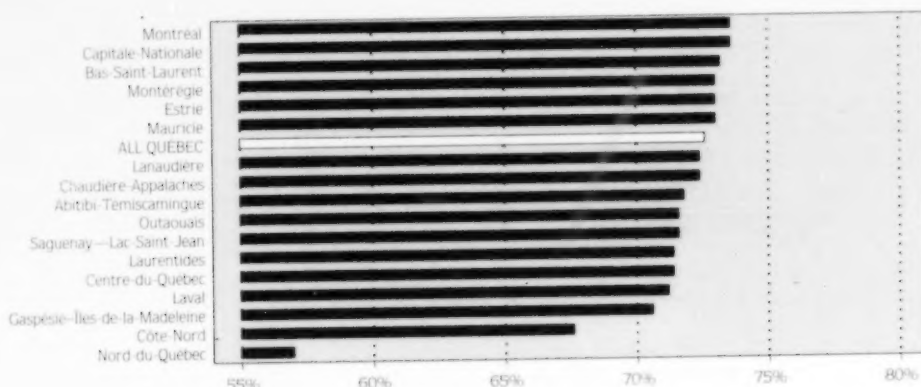
The results on the Ministère's June 2006 uniform examinations showed a difference of 26.2 percentage points between the success rates of students in the region with the best performance (85.8%) and in the region with the poorest performance (59.6%).

1. Results are calculated on the basis of the students' final marks. The final mark is made up, in equal proportions, of the student's result on the uniform examination and the "moderated" school mark. "Moderation" is a procedure that renders the marks assigned by different schools comparable by using the results of the uniform examination for each student group as the basis of comparison.

Table 4.2  
Results on secondary  
school uniform  
examinations in the  
youth sector, by school  
administrative region:  
June 2006 (%)

School Administrative Region	Average	Success Rate
Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine	70.6	80.0
Bas-Saint-Laurent	73.2	84.4
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	71.6	83.0
Capitale-Nationale	73.6	85.8
Chaudière-Appalaches	72.4	83.6
Mauricie	73.0	84.0
Centre-du-Québec	71.4	81.4
Estrie	73.0	84.2
Montréal	73.6	84.0
Laval	71.2	81.2
Lanaudière	72.4	83.4
Laurentides	71.4	81.2
Outaouais	71.6	80.6
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	71.8	83.8
Côte-Nord	67.6	74.8
Nord-du-Québec	57.0	59.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>83.2</b>

Graph 4.2  
Average marks on  
secondary school  
uniform examinations  
in the youth sector, by  
school administrative  
region: June 2006 (%)



## 4.3 Secondary V French, Language of Instruction, Examination – Youth Sector

Students who took the June 2006 Secondary V French, language of instruction, examination obtained an average mark of 71.6%;<sup>1</sup> the success rate was 86.6%.

The examination consisted of three components: a written production, a reading comprehension exercise and an oral expression test. The reading comprehension and oral expression components were under the responsibility of the educational institutions. The results obtained in these sections are not included in Table 4.3; however, they were considered in the calculation of the overall results on the French examination. For the written production component, which was under the responsibility of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, students obtained an average of 70.8% and a success rate of 79.4%.

Whereas there was no significant difference overall between the results obtained by male and female students on the examinations used for purposes of certification, female students outperformed male students on the French examination. The average for female students was 5.6 percentage points above that for male students, and the success rate was 9.2 percentage points in favour of female students. In written production, the female students' average was 5.2 percentage points higher than the male students' and their success rate was 9.2 percentage points higher.

The average obtained by private school students surpassed that of public school students by 6.2 percentage points. In the public system, 15.8% of the students failed the ministry examination, compared with 4.2% in the private system. In written production, students in private schools scored 7 percentage points higher than students in the public system. Compared with the June 2005, examination, the success rate for the written production component went from 86.3% to 79.4%. For the examination as a whole, the suc-

cess rate dropped from 89.8% to 86.6%. This drop is a result of more stringent spelling criteria.

The success rate on the Ministère's June 2006 Secondary V French, language of instruction, examination was 86.6%. Female students obtained significantly higher marks than male students.

1. Results are calculated on the basis of the students' final marks. The final mark is made up, in equal proportions, of the student's result on the uniform examination and the "moderated" school mark. "Moderation" is a procedure that renders the marks assigned by different schools comparable by using the results of the uniform examination for each student group as the basis of comparison.

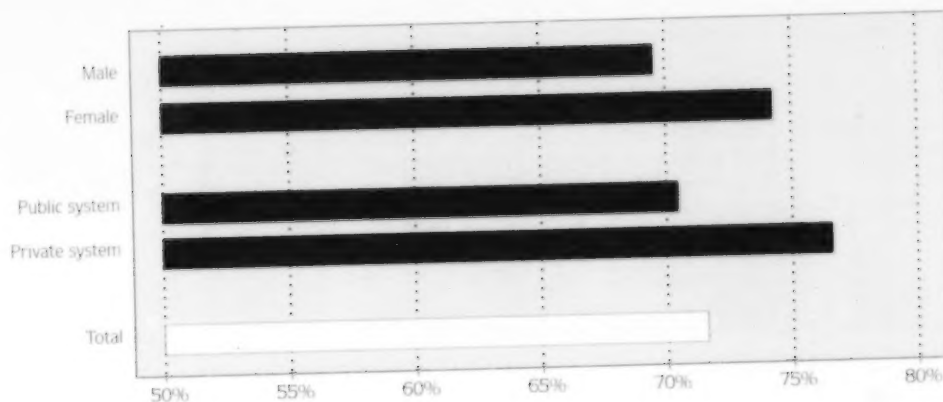


Table 4.3  
Results on the  
Secondary V French,  
language of instruction,  
examination in the  
youth sector, by gender  
and school system:  
June 2006 (%)

Rate	Written Production		Overall Results	
	Average	Success Rate	Average	Success
Male	67.8	74.4	68.6	81.6
Female	73.0	83.6	74.2	90.8
Public system <sup>1</sup>	69.2	76.4	70.4	84.2
Private system	76.2	90.4	76.6	95.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>79.4</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>86.6</b>

<sup>1</sup> Excludes the Cree School Board, the Kativik School Board and institutions outside the jurisdiction of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport.

Graph 4.3  
Average marks on the  
Secondary V French,  
language of instruction,  
examination in the  
youth sector, by gender  
and school system:  
June 2006 (%)



## 4.4 Ministerial Examination of College French

In 2005-2006, 39 875 college students wrote the ministerial examination of college French, language of instruction and literature.

Since January 1, 1998,<sup>1</sup> students in French CEGEPs are required to pass this examination to obtain a Diploma of College Studies (DCS). The students must read a series of texts and write a 900-word essay on them, thereby demonstrating their ability to understand a variety of texts and produce a structured essay using correct language.

There are three major evaluation criteria for the ministerial examination: I-Comprehension and insight; II-Organization of response; and III-Expression. The first two criteria contain specific subcriteria that are evaluated using a seven-level rating scale: A (very good), B (good), C+ (fair), C (adequate), D (weak), E (very poor) and F (unacceptable). In the Expression criterion, the "appropriate use of words" subcriterion is evaluated using the same rating scale, while sentence structure, punctuation, spelling and grammar are evaluated quantitatively, by counting errors. Students must obtain a C or better for each of the three major criteria. A grade of C represents an adequate level of competence. Therefore, students who obtain a D or worse on any one of the three criteria automatically fail the examination.

In 2005-2006, the overall success rate for the ministerial examination of college French was 81.1%, compared with 84.7% in 2004-2005. This drop is a result of a set of factors related to the student strike in the fall of 2005 and student body composition (more allophone and adult students).

The best results were obtained in Organization of response, on which 37.1% of students received an A. Good results were also obtained in Comprehension and insight, on which 51.9% of students received a B. The results for the third criterion, Expression, were the lowest: only 38.2% of students passed this criterion 83.7% of them with a C.

In 2005-2006, the success rate for women was 83.8%, compared with 76.7% for men. These rates were lower than those observed in 2004-2005, which were 87.6% and 80.2%, respectively.

Students enrolled in pre-university programs leading to a DCS recorded a success rate of 89.1%, while students enrolled in technical programs leading to a DCS achieved a success rate of 72.6%.<sup>2</sup> In the latter case, the results were 5.0 percentage points<sup>3</sup> lower than those observed in 2004-2005. This is the largest decline since 2000-2001, which was 5.8 percentage points lower than the preceding year. The performance of students enrolled in pre-university programs is slightly lower than that observed the previous year.

Of the college students who took the ministerial examination of college French during the 2005-2006, 81.1% passed.

1. This requirement was postponed until January 1, 2003, for students who have passed at least one language and literature course in the old system. Students may retake the examination until they pass it.
2. The average mark in secondary school of students enrolled in pre-university education who wrote the ministerial examination of college French in 2005-2006 was 78.0%; it was 68.7% for those enrolled in technical training. This difference in academic performance may help explain the gap between the results of students enrolled in the different types of college programs.
3. A number of factors explain these results, in particular, the student strike in the fall of 2005, the "special" conditions for passing the examination set in December 2005, as well as modifications in the composition of the students who took the examination (more allophone and adult students).

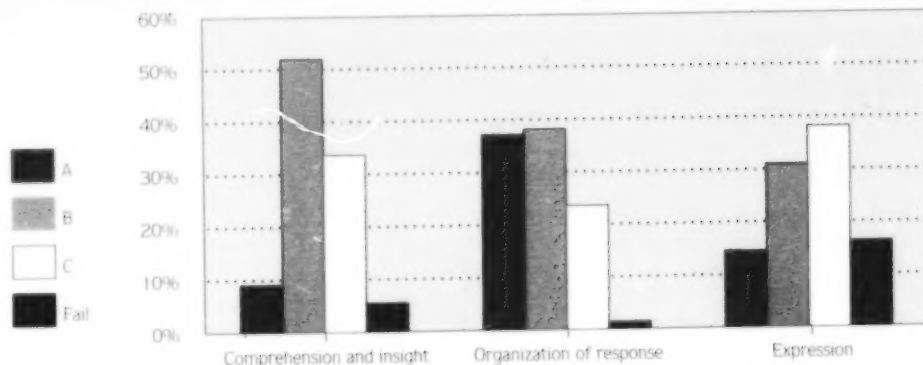
Table 4.4a  
Success rate for the ministerial examination of college French, by gender and type of program (%)

	Success Rate			
	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Female	88.5	87.5	87.6	83.8
Male	81.8	80.5	80.2	76.7
Pre-university education (DCS)	92.2	91.4	91.6	89.1
Technical training (DCS)	79.9	78.5	77.6	72.6
<b>Overall examination</b>	<b>85.8</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>81.1</b>

Table 4.4b  
Distribution of students according to the grade obtained on each criterion of the ministerial examination of college French, 2005-2006 (%)

Criteria for the 2005-2006 examination	Distribution of students				Success Rate
	A	B	C	Fail	
Comprehension and insight	9.0	51.9	33.7	5.4	94.6
Organization of response	37.1	38.1	23.6	1.3	98.7
Expression	14.5	31.0	38.2	16.3	83.7

Graph 4.4  
Distribution of students, by grade obtained on each criterion of the ministerial examination of college French, 2005-2006 (%)



## 5.1 Highest Diploma or Degree Earned

The main data pertaining to diplomas and degrees earned at the various levels of education appears in the diagram on student retention and is presented in more detail in the following sections. Organized in a different way,<sup>1</sup> this data may also show the distribution of a cohort of school leavers according to the highest diploma or degree earned.<sup>2</sup>

Between 1975-1976 and 2004-2005, graduation rates at the secondary and university levels rose rapidly for both men and women. During this period, the increase in the proportion of new graduates with bachelor's degrees (from 14.9% to 30.2%) was accompanied, at the other extreme, by a drop of almost two thirds in the proportion of those leaving school without a diploma (from 43.0% to 14.7%). This decline has resulted in a significant increase in all the other categories.

Thus, the proportion of school leavers who are not prepared for the labour market, that is, persons without a diploma or with only a Secondary School Diploma (SSD) in general education or a pre-university Diploma of College Studies (DCS) (including DCSs without mention) dropped from 63.2% in 1975-1976 to 29.6% in 2004-2005. This decline of 33.6 percentage points is reflected by increases of 15.3 percentage points in the proportion of graduates with a bachelor's degree and 18.3 percentage points in the proportion of holders of vocational or technical training diplomas (14.4 and 3.9 percentage points, respectively).

A glance at the situation according to gender highlights the disparities already observed in the schooling of men and women. In 2005, one and a half times more women than men graduated with a bachelor's degree or with a college diploma in technical training (52.4% compared with 31.1%), while roughly half as many women as men left school without a diploma (8% compared with 21%).

In 2004-2005, 70.4% of those leaving the education system graduated with a bachelor's degree or a diploma in vocational or technical training.

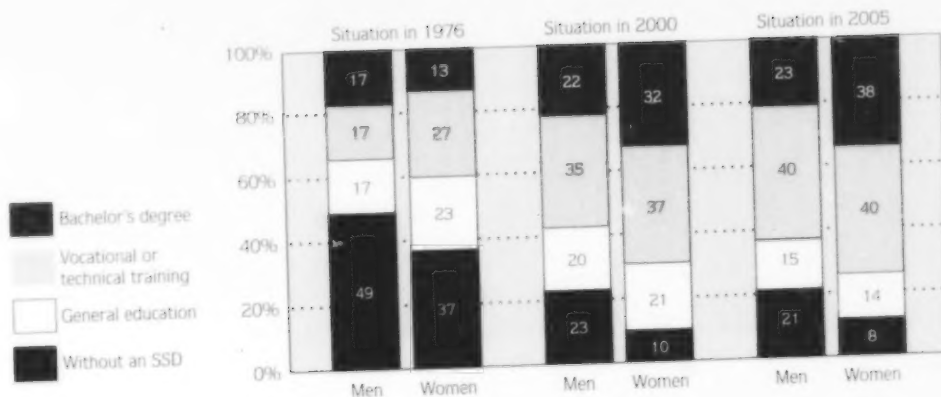
1. It is assumed that the diplomas or degrees awarded at a given level are preceded by a diploma at a lower level. For example, the number of bachelor's degrees should be a subset of the number of DCSs; it follows that the surplus of DCSs in relation to the bachelor's degrees would represent the number of DCSs that are not followed by a university degree. For this reason, there are no persons with a DCS in pre-university education or without mention of vocational specialty as a last diploma in 1975-1976 and 1995-1996. An additional hypothesis makes it possible to estimate the number of DCSs in technical training that are followed by a bachelor's degree. It is also assumed that secondary vocational training diplomas are not followed by another higher-level diploma. Partial studies at a given level are grouped with the diploma immediately below: for example, uncompleted college studies are considered with the SSDs in general education.
2. This level of schooling is different from the level for the general population as indicated in the census, the latter being primarily a historical reflection of all the generations in question. The level measured here is the schooling for persons currently leaving the education system. It also shows what the general state of schooling would be if current trends were to continue.

Table 5.1  
Distribution of school  
leavers, by highest  
diploma or degree  
earned (%)

	1975- 1976	1985- 1986	1990- 1991	1995- 1996	2003- 2004	2004- 2005
Bachelor's degree <sup>1</sup>	14.9	19.0	23.6	29.0	29.3	30.2
College diploma in technical training <sup>2</sup>	7.4	11.2	10.4	11.2	11.7	11.3
Secondary vocational training diploma <sup>3</sup>	14.5	17.7	13.7	19.4	27.4	28.9
General education (DCS or SSD)	20.2	31.3	29.1	28.6	15.8	14.9
No diploma	43.0	20.8	23.2	11.8	15.8	14.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- Figures for university are based on the calendar year in which the school year ends.
- The diplomas considered here are the Diploma of College Studies (DCS) in technical training, the Attestation of College Studies (ACS) until 1984, the Certificat d'études collégiales (CEC—certificate of college studies) and the Diplôme de perfectionnement de l'enseignement collégial (DPEC—diploma of advanced college studies).
- The diplomas considered here are the Short Vocational Diploma, the Long Vocational Diploma, the Secondary School Vocational Certificate (SSVC), the Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS—known as the Secondary School Vocational Diploma [SSVD] prior to 1998), the Attestation of Vocational Specialization (AVS), the Attestation of Vocational Education (AVE) and other secondary school diplomas (SSDs) with mention of vocational specialty.

Figure 5.1  
Distribution of school  
leavers, by highest  
diploma or degree  
earned (%)

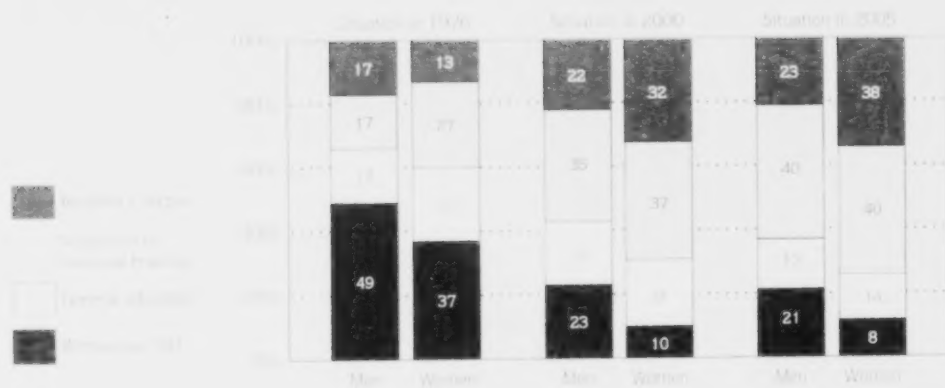


**Table 6.1**  
Distribution of school leavers, by highest diploma or degree earned (%)

	1975-1976	1985-1986	1990-1991	1995-1996	2003-2004	2004-2005
Bachelor's degree	14.9	19.0	23.6	29.0	29.3	30.2
College diploma in technical training	7.4	11.2	10.4	11.2	11.7	11.3
Secondary Vocational training diploma	14.5	17.7	13.7	19.4	27.4	28.9
General education (DCS or SSD)	20.2	31.3	29.1	28.6	15.8	14.9
No diploma	43.0	30.8	23.2	11.8	15.8	14.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. Figures in brackets represent the percentage of school leavers who earned a diploma or degree in the following fields:
2. The general education diploma (SSD) is a diploma awarded to students who have completed the equivalent of grade 12 in the general education program. It is awarded to students who have completed the equivalent of grade 12 in the general education program.
3. The general education diploma (DCS) is a diploma awarded to students who have completed the equivalent of grade 12 in the general education program. It is awarded to students who have completed the equivalent of grade 12 in the general education program.

**Figure 6.2**  
Distribution of school leavers, by highest diploma or degree earned (%)



## 5.2 Graduation From Secondary School – Youth and Adult Sectors

The probability of obtaining a secondary school diploma<sup>1</sup> in 2005-2006 was 86.4%. This is the highest rate observed since 1995-1996.

In 2005-2006, for students in the youth sector and under 20 years of age in the adult sector in Québec, the probability of obtaining a secondary school diploma was 70.2%, exactly the same as the previous year. The Ministère's objective is to reach a rate of 85%.

The graduation rate discussed here applies primarily to general education. As indicated in Section 5.3, the graduation rate for vocational training rose in 2005-2006, while the graduation rate in general education was similar to that observed in 2004-2005. This section is primarily concerned with the first diplomas earned.<sup>2</sup> It is interesting to note that in 2005-2006, 85.8% of all the diplomas earned were first diplomas obtained in general education. This proportion was 96.6% if only diplomas obtained in the youth sector or by students under 20 years of age in the adult sector are considered.

The temporary slump in the graduation rate between 1986 and 1990 was largely due to the raising of the pass mark from 50% to 60%, which has made the diploma more valuable, yet more difficult to obtain. Students seem to have overcome this obstacle since 1989, and the graduation rate continued to rise for a number of years, although it has been dropping steadily since 1998-1999. Finally, since 2003-2004, the rate has been rising steadily to return to the levels observed in the mid-1990s.

The probability of graduating from secondary school is greater for female students than for male students. The gender gap was nearly 18 percentage points in 1989-1990 and close to 14 percentage points in 2005-2006.

The graduation rate for female students was above 90% between 1991-1992 and 1995-1996, and remained below this level after 1998-1999; it is once again above 90% since

2003-2004 (90.5%), reaching 93.4% in 2005-2006. For male students, it passed the 80% mark in 1995-1996, and stood at 79.7% in 2005-2006.

The dropout rate is the proportion of the population who would never earn a diploma during their lifetime if the situation observed in a given year were to continue indefinitely. It is the complement to the probability of obtaining a secondary school diploma, presented in this section. The dropout rate was 20.2% in 2002-2003; it was 13.6% in 2005-2006.

**In 2005-2006, the probability of obtaining a first secondary school diploma in the youth or adult sector was 86.4%.**

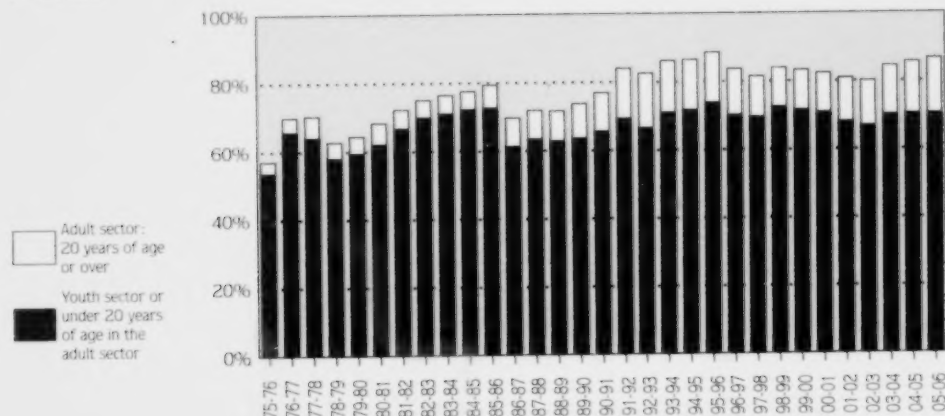
1. The probability of obtaining a first secondary school diploma is determined by grouping the first diplomas obtained at the secondary level in general education and vocational training. This indicator is a measure of the proportion of a generation that stays in school until a secondary-level diploma is earned.
2. Figures do not include the second or third vocational training diploma that a student may have earned, vocational training diplomas received after a general SSD, or SSDs obtained after a diploma in vocational training.

Table 5.2  
Probability of obtaining  
a secondary school  
diploma in either  
the youth or the adult  
sector, by gender (%)

	1975- 1976	1985- 1986	1995- 1996	2003- 2004	2004- 2005	2005- 2006 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>79.1</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>86.4</b>
Adult sector: 20 years of age or over	3.4	6.7	14.7	14.3	15.1	16.1
Youth sector or under the age of 20 in the adult sector	53.5	72.4	73.6	69.9	70.2	70.2
<b>Male</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>78.2</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>79.7</b>
Adult sector: 20 years of age or over	2.9	6.0	14.6	14.7	15.3	16.4
Youth sector or under the age of 20 in the adult sector	48.2	67.1	67.3	63.5	63.7	63.3
<b>Female</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>85.4</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>90.5</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>93.4</b>
Adult sector: 20 years of age or over	3.9	7.5	14.9	14.0	14.9	15.8
Youth sector or under the age of 20 in the adult sector	59.1	78.0	80.3	76.5	77.0	77.6

*e. Estimates*

Graph 5.2  
Probability of obtaining  
a secondary school  
diploma in either  
the youth or the adult  
sector (%)





## 5.3 Graduation From Secondary Vocational Training – Youth and Adult Sectors

**B**ased on behaviours observed in 2005-2006, 32 out of 100 Quebecers can expect to obtain a vocational training diploma<sup>1</sup> in secondary school.<sup>2</sup> This group includes 20 persons who already have a first Secondary School Diploma (SSD) in general education. Since 1997-1998, this proportion has been relatively stable (roughly 16 or 17); the 20-person mark in 2005-2006 is therefore a significant increase.

Moreover, the probability of obtaining a first secondary school diploma from the youth sector or before the age of 20 in the adult sector in vocational training was 2.4% in 2005-2006; this rate was higher than 16% in 1977-1978 and has been relatively stable since 1996-1997. Students in the youth sector or before the age of 20 in the adult sector who obtain a first secondary school diploma (70.2% in 2005-2006) are most likely to do so in general education (Section 5.2).

The very nature of vocational training diplomas has also changed. Short vocational programs have been phased out in favour of general education. The basic difference between the Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS) and its predecessor, the Long Vocational Diploma, is that the DVS deals exclusively with vocational training, since all the components of the vocational programs dealing with general education have been transferred to the SSD.

The difference between male and female students is much less pronounced than in general education. Nevertheless, vocational training represents a larger share of the graduation rate for male students (35.0%) than for female students (28.8%).

The proportion of a generation of students obtaining a secondary school vocational training diploma was 32.0% in 2005-2006. This is the highest rate ever recorded.

1. The diplomas considered here are the Short Vocational Diploma, the Long Vocational Diploma, the Secondary School Vocational Certificate (SSVC), the Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS—known as the Secondary School Vocational Diploma [SSVD] prior to 1998), the Attestation of Vocational Specialization (AVS), the Attestation of Vocational Education (AVE) and other secondary school diplomas (SSDs) with mention of vocational specialty.
2. Refers to the probability of obtaining a first secondary school diploma. This rate is determined by grouping only the first secondary school diplomas in vocational training. This indicator is a measure of the proportion of a generation that stays in school until a secondary-level diploma is earned in vocational training.

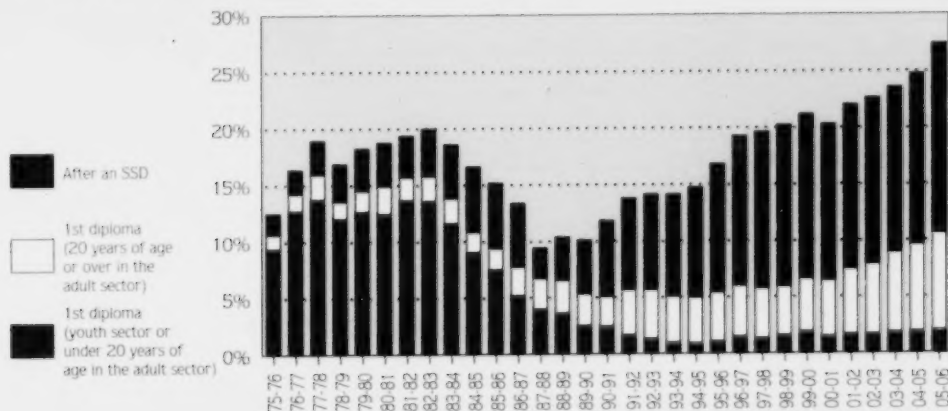
Table 5.3  
Probability of obtaining  
a vocational training  
diploma, by sector, age  
and gender (%)

	1975- 1976	1985- 1986	1995- 1996	2003- 2004	2004- 2005	2005- 2006 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>32.0</b>
Male	12.0	17.0	21.2	30.4	31.5	35.0
Female	17.2	18.4	17.9	24.4	26.2	28.8
First diploma	12.4	10.9	6.3	10.4	11.3	12.4
After an SSD <sup>1</sup>	2.2	6.8	13.3	17.1	17.7	19.6
<b>Youth sector or before the age of 20 in the adult sector</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>
First diploma	11.0	8.8	1.3	2.2	2.3	2.4
After an SSD <sup>1</sup>	2.1	6.4	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.5
<b>Adult sector: 20 years of age or over</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>22.6</b>	<b>25.1</b>
First diploma	1.4	2.1	5.0	8.2	8.9	10.0
After an SSD <sup>1</sup>	0.1	0.4	9.8	13.1	13.6	15.1

e: Estimates

1: SSD: Secondary School Diploma

Graph 5.3  
Probability of obtaining  
a vocational training  
diploma, by sector  
and age (%)



## 5.4 Graduation From Secondary School in Québec and OECD Countries, 2004

In 2006, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published *Education at a Glance*, which contains indicators on graduation from secondary school in OECD countries in 2004.

Table 5.4 compares the situation in Québec with that in a number of industrialized OECD nations with respect to the proportion of graduates from public and private secondary schools out of a total population old enough, in theory, to have obtained a secondary school diploma. In 2004, the secondary school graduation rate (SSD) in Québec (87%) remained higher than the average for OECD countries.

Of the 22 OECD countries listed in the table,<sup>2</sup> 8 had higher secondary school graduation rates than Québec. Québec's rate was lower than that of Norway, Germany, Korea, Ireland, Japan, Denmark, Finland and Switzerland, but higher than that of Hungary, Iceland, the Slovak Republic, Italy, France, Poland, Sweden, the United States, New Zealand, Luxembourg, Spain, Turkey and Mexico.

Except for Korea and Turkey, where the secondary school graduation rate for male students is the same or higher than that for female students, female students are more likely to graduate than male students. The greatest gender differences are observed in Norway (28 percentage points), Iceland (24 percentage points), New Zealand (20 percentage points), Denmark and Poland (19 percentage points), Spain (17 percentage points) and Ireland (14 percentage points). Québec, with a difference of 12 percentage points, is among those places where female students are more likely to graduate than male students. In other countries, graduation rates among male and female students differ less (as seen in Table 5.4), for example Japan, Switzerland and the Czech Republic.

The graduation rate observed for male students in Québec (82%) was higher than the OECD average for male students. The rate for female students in Québec was 94%, 8 percentage points higher than the OECD average for female students.

There are far more students in general education in Québec than there are in vocational training, and this holds true for both male and female students. With a probability of obtaining a diploma in general education of 77%, Québec ranks first among the OECD countries, with a rate 30 percentage points higher than the OECD average.

The reverse is true in vocational training. The probability of obtaining a diploma in vocational training in Québec is 32%, while the average for the OECD countries is 44%. A number of countries obtained very good results in vocational training, including Finland (75%), Switzerland and France (70%), the Czech Republic (69%), the Slovak Republic (68%) and Italy (67%).

The probability of obtaining a diploma in vocational training in Québec is only slightly higher for male students than for female students. It is the sector of activity that differs for female and male students.

In 2004, the probability of obtaining a secondary school diploma<sup>1</sup> in Québec was 87%, 6 percentage points higher than the OECD average.

1. For Québec, this rate was obtained by dividing the number of "first diplomas" awarded in 2004 by the number of 17-year-olds in Québec (the age at which a secondary school diploma is generally awarded in Québec).

2. The countries included in the table are those for which the OECD report provides totals and whose number of students per cohort is significant.

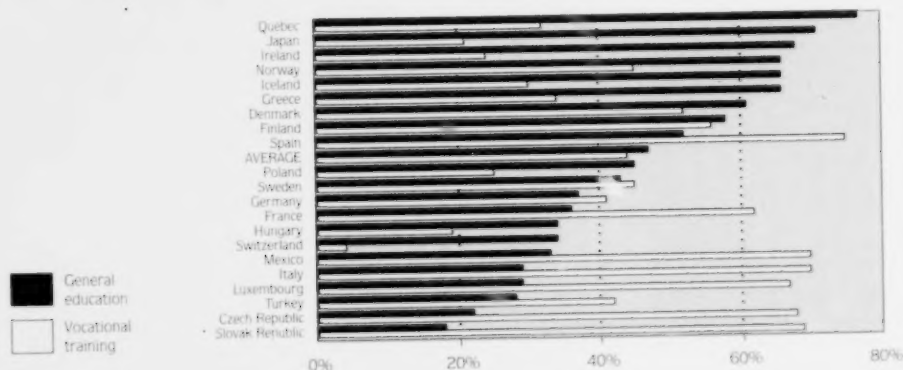
Table 5.4:  
Probability  
of obtaining a  
secondary school  
diploma, by gender  
and type of  
program:  
Québec and OECD  
countries, 2004 (%)

	Total (without double counting)			General education		Vocational training	
	M + F	Male	Female	M + F	Female	M + F	Female
Norway	100	86	114	66	80	45	46
Germany	99	97	101	36	40	62	61
Korea	96	96	96	66	66	30	30
Ireland	92	86	99	66	69	34	38
Japan	91	90	92	68	71	24	21
Denmark <sup>1</sup>	90	81	100	58	70	56	63
Finland <sup>1</sup>	90	84	96	52	62	75	83
Switzerland	89	89	90	29	35	70	66
Czech Republic	87	85	88	18	23	69	65
<b>Québec</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>28</b>
Hungary	86	82	90	71	80	21	15
Iceland	84	72	96	61	75	52	48
Slovak Republic	83	81	85	22	26	68	62
Italy	81	80	83	29	38	67	60
France <sup>1</sup>	81	78	84	33	40	70	65
Poland	79	70	89	43	52	45	42
Sweden	78	75	81	37	44	41	37
United States	75	72	79	75	79	N/A	N/A
New Zealand	75	65	85	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Luxembourg	69	66	73	28	31	42	42
Spain	66	58	75	45	54	25	27
Turkey	53	57	49	34	33	19	15
Mexico	38	34	41	34	37	4	4
<b>OECD average</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>

Source: OECD, Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators (Paris, 2006), Table A2.1.

N/A: Data not available. 1. Reference year: 2003

Graph 5.4  
Probability of obtaining  
a secondary school  
diploma, general  
education and  
vocational training:  
Québec and OECD  
countries, 2004 (%)



## 5.5 Graduation From College

In 2004-2005, the proportion of a generation who could expect to obtain a first college diploma (all diplomas combined) was 48.2%. This is an increase of 26.0 percentage points since 1975-1976, when it stood at 22.2%. The proportion of a generation who could expect to obtain a first Diploma of College Studies (DCS) rose from 21.0% to 39.5%, an increase of 18.5 percentage points. The more pronounced increase for all diplomas combined is a result of the increase in the official number of graduates holding an Attestation of College Studies (ACS) when it became mandatory to declare ACSs in 2000. The proportion of a generation who are admitted to college (see Section 2.8) and the proportion of students who obtain a diploma upon leaving college (see Sections 3.3 and 3.4) also contribute to this result.

The probability of women obtaining a diploma was more than one and a half times higher than for men (59.6% compared with 37.3%). The gender gap grew steadily during the 1980s and 1990s. In 1975-1976, the probability of obtaining a college diploma was only 2.7 percentage points higher for women than for men. Since then, the probability has continued to rise more sharply for women, and the gap is now 22.3 percentage points. In fact, in the past several years, it is virtually only among women that the probability of obtaining a DCS has grown.

The greatest growth has occurred with the pre-university DCS, as the probability of obtaining this type of diploma rose from 13.5% to 24.5% between 1975-1976 and 2004-2005, an increase of 11.0 percentage points, compared with 7.5 percentage points for the technical DCS over the same period. In the latter case, however, the increase has been greater, given that the rate doubled. Since 1995-1996, only in technical training did the probability of obtaining a diploma increase (1.5 percentage points), while it remained stable for a pre-university DCS.

For both types of programs, the number of women graduating between 1975-1976 and 2004-2005 exceeded the number of men, and the gender gap continued to widen. The probability of women obtaining a pre-university DCS increased by 18.7 percentage points, compared with 3.7 percentage points for men. On the other hand, for both men and women, the probability of obtaining a technical DCS grew more modestly (in absolute numbers), although the increase for men was more pronounced in technical training (5.9 percentage points) than in pre-university education (3.7 percentage points). Women were ahead of men by 4 percentage points in 1975-1976, and by 7.4 percentage points in 2004-2005.

The Ministère's objective is that 60% of Quebecers obtain a DCS; in 2004-2005, the rate was for a DCS was 39.5%, while it was 48.2% for all college diplomas combined, including the ACS.

By 2004-2005, the proportion of female Quebecers who could expect to obtain a college diploma had risen by 20.3 percentage points since 1985-1986, compared with 7.6 percentage points for male Quebecers.

1 The probability of obtaining a first college diploma measures the proportion of a generation that stays in school until a college diploma is earned.

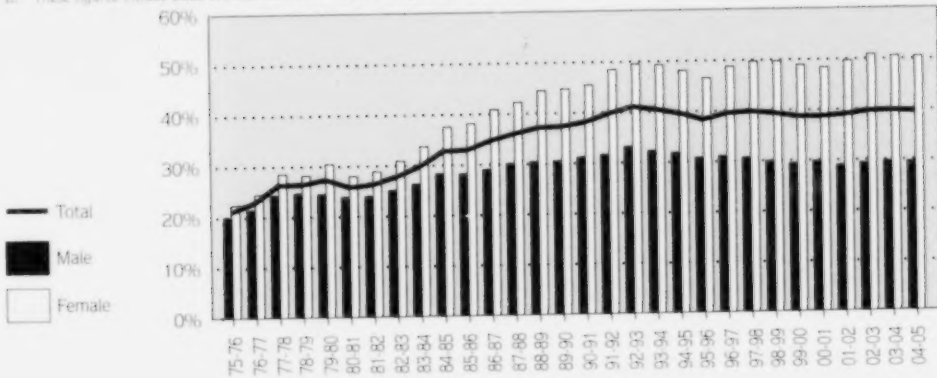
Table 5.5  
**Probability of obtaining  
a first college diploma,  
by gender and type  
of education (%)**

	1975- 1976	1985- 1986	1995- 1996	2002- 2003	2003- 2004	2004- 2005 <sup>e</sup>
<b>Male</b>						
All diplomas <sup>1</sup>	20.8	29.7	31.7	37.4	38.0	37.3
<b>DCS<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>29.4</b>
Pre-university education	14.3	18.7	19.4	17.0	17.6	18.0
Technical training	5.5	9.0	10.9	12.0	12.0	11.4
<b>Female</b>						
All diplomas <sup>1</sup>	23.5	39.3	47.4	61.1	60.2	59.6
<b>DCS<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>50.2</b>
Pre-university education	12.7	23.6	29.8	31.5	31.1	31.4
Technical training	9.5	14.0	16.2	19.1	19.2	18.8
<b>Total</b>						
All diplomas <sup>1</sup>	22.2	34.4	39.4	48.9	48.8	48.2
<b>DCS<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>39.5</b>
Pre-university education	13.5	21.1	24.5	24.1	24.1	24.5
Technical training	7.5	11.4	13.5	15.5	15.5	15.0

<sup>e</sup> Estimates

1. The diplomas considered here are the Diploma of College Studies (DCS), the Attestation of College Studies (ACS), the Certificat d'études collégiales (CEC—certificate of college studies) and the Diplôme de perfectionnement de l'enseignement collégial (DPEC—diploma of advanced college studies). Since 1994, there have been no new enrollments in programs leading to a CEC or to a DPEC. The more pronounced increase for all diplomas combined is a result of the rise in the official number of graduates holding an ACS when it became mandatory to declare ACSs in 2000.
2. These figures include DCSs without mention of vocational specialty.

Graph 5.5  
**Probability of obtaining  
a first college diploma  
(DCS), by gender (%)**



## 5.6 Graduation From University<sup>1</sup>

**B**ased on behaviours observed in 2005, more than one quarter of Quebecers (30.2%) can expect to obtain a bachelor's degree. In the past several years, the number of women enrolling in university has grown more rapidly than the number of men (see Section 2.10). The situation has changed drastically since 1976, when the probability of obtaining a bachelor's degree was 13.1% for women and 16.7% for men. In 1983, the probability for both groups was more similar and, since then, the increase in probability has been in women's favour. In 2005, the probability of obtaining a bachelor's degree was 37.9% for women and 22.9% for men, or an increase of 24.8 percentage points for women and 6.2 percentage points for men since 1976.

The Ministère's objective is a university graduation rate of 30% for Quebecers. The current rate (30.2%) shows an increase despite a series of drops in university enrollment between 1992-1993 and 1997-1998 (see Section 2.10). The recovery of the university enrollment rate in the past several years has allowed the Ministère's objective to be attained.

With regard to obtaining a master's degree, the results have continued to increase and reached 9.1% for women and 9.4% for men. For both sexes, the rate of 9.2% represents more than triple the 1976 rate of 2.7%. An increase in enrollment at the master's level (see Section 2.10) points to a continued increase in the number of master's degrees awarded for at least a few years to come. The gender gap disappeared in 2003, but could widen in favour of women, given the growing margin in earning a bachelor's degree. Since 1976, the situation of men and women has reversed; whereas the initial gap was 1.6 percentage points in favour of men, the probability of women obtaining a master's degree has climbed from 1.9% to 9.1%, an increase of 7.2 percentage points.

Doctorates are still only earned by a very small fraction (1.2%) of the population. This last phase in the education system is perhaps the only one in which men continue to outnumber women. Figures are, however, minimal for both sexes: 1.3% of men obtain a doctorate, compared with 1.1% of women. In view of developments at the master's level, and the trend at the doctoral level (see Section 3.8), the pool of aspiring doctoral candidates is also likely to increase for some time to come.

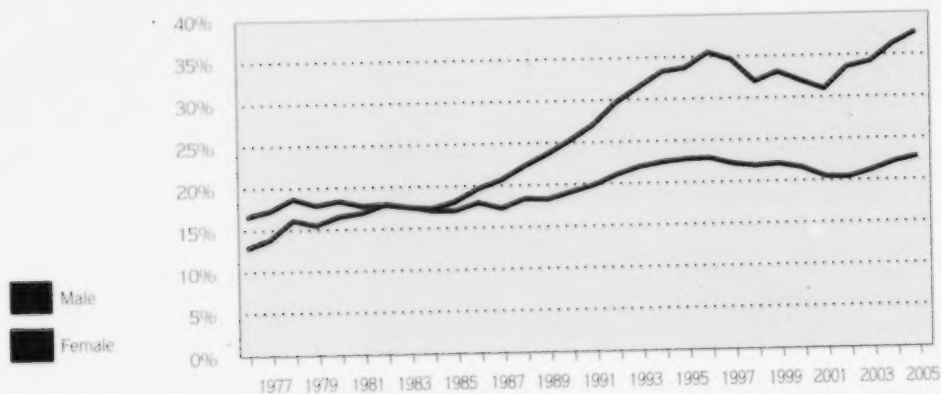
In 2005, the proportion of Quebecers who could expect to obtain a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree was 30.2%, 9.2% and 1.2%, respectively. These are the highest rates observed for these university degrees.

1. Only university degrees (bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees) awarded by Quebec universities are considered here, including those earned by foreign students. Degrees earned by Quebecers outside the province are not taken into account.

Table 5.6  
Probability of obtaining  
a university degree,  
by gender (%)

	1976	1986	1991	1996	2003	2004	2005
<b>Bachelor's degree</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>30.2</b>
Male	16.7	18.1	20.0	23.0	21.3	22.3	22.9
Female	13.1	19.9	27.3	35.7	34.4	36.5	37.9
<b>Master's degree</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>
Male	3.5	4.4	4.4	5.8	8.5	9.0	9.4
Female	1.9	3.4	4.3	6.3	8.5	8.8	9.1
<b>Doctorate</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Male	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3
Female	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.1

Graph 5.6  
Probability of obtaining  
a bachelor's degree,  
by gender (%)





## 5.7 University Degrees by Field of Study<sup>1</sup>

In 2005, the largest proportion (26.9%) of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees issued by Québec universities were earned in the humanities, followed by business administration (24.2%), engineering and architecture (12.0%), education (9.6%), health sciences (9.5%) and natural sciences (7.0%). Social sciences represented 4.6%, mathematics and computer science, 3.8% and law, 2.5%.

The majority of degree holders are women (57.6%). In 2005, women earned 80.6% of the degrees in education, 78.1% in social sciences, 76.2% in health sciences, 66.5% in the humanities, 63.8% in law and 55.9% in natural sciences. Men earned 75.9% of the degrees in engineering and architecture,<sup>2</sup> 74.0% in mathematics and computer science, and 51.0% in business administration.

The number of degrees issued by universities is experiencing an upward trend, going from 31 404 in 1990, to 42 286 in 2004 and 43 397 in 2005, which represents an increase of 2.6% between these two years. This increase, however, hides differences from one field of study to another. For example, the number of degrees in health sciences, engineering and architecture, the humanities and business administration increased by 6.5%, 5.1%, 4.4% and 4.2%, respectively. Between 2004 and 2005, the number of degrees awarded in mathematics and computer science, education and law decreased by 8.9%, 3.5% and 3.0%, respectively.

Between 2000 and 2005, the distribution of the degrees awarded according to field of study has also changed. For example, the number of degrees in business administration increased (by 3.2 percentage points), as did the number of degrees in engineering and architecture (by 1.8 percentage points) and health sciences (by 1.1 percentage points). At the other extreme, the number of degrees awarded in law and education dropped (by 1.8 percentage points), as did

the number of degrees in natural sciences (by 1.5 percentage points), the humanities and law (by 0.9 percentage points), mathematics and computer science (by 0.5 percentage points) and the social sciences (by 0.4 percentage points).

In 2005, Québec universities awarded 40% of bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in engineering and architecture, business administration as well as mathematics and computer science. In these fields of study, 60.0% of the graduates were men; however, 70.0% of the degrees in the other fields of study were awarded to women.

1. This refers to students who earned a first university degree (bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree) during the year in question.

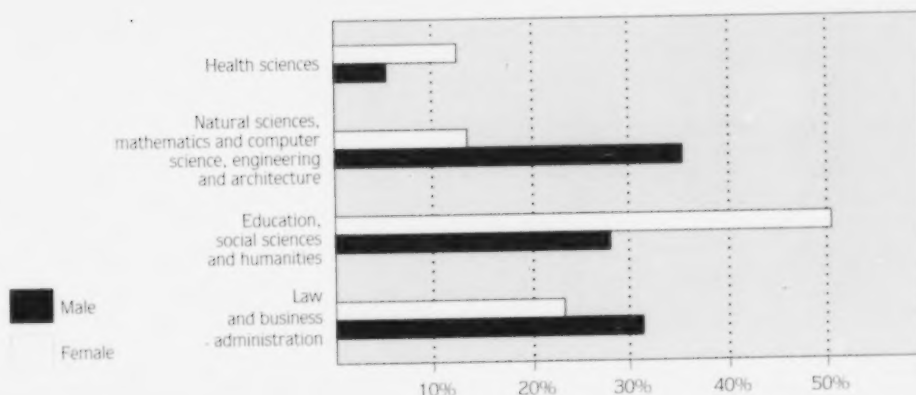
2. The proportion of degrees in engineering and architecture earned by women rose from 16.8% in 1990 to 24.1% in 2005.

Table 5.7  
Distribution of  
university degrees,  
by field of study  
and gender<sup>1</sup> (%)

	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Health sciences	8.7	8.3	8.2	8.6	8.3	9.1	9.5
Natural sciences	7.7	8.5	8.0	7.7	7.3	7.1	7.0
Mathematics and computer science	3.9	4.3	4.6	5.0	4.7	4.3	3.8
Engineering and architecture	11.0	10.2	10.7	10.4	11.2	11.7	12.0
Law	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.4	2.6	2.5
Business administration	22.8	21.0	22.2	22.6	24.1	23.9	24.2
Education	11.1	11.4	10.9	11.3	10.7	10.2	9.6
Humanities	26.3	27.8	27.4	26.7	26.5	26.4	26.9
Social sciences	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Female	53.4	56.7	57.2	58.4	57.4	57.6	57.6
Male	46.6	43.3	42.8	41.6	42.6	42.4	42.4

1. Only holders of bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees who obtained their degree in the year in question are considered.

Graph 5.7  
Distribution of  
university degrees,  
by field of study and  
gender: 2005 (%)



## 6.1 Changes in Educational Attainment in the Labour Force

Since the early 1990s, there has been a significant increase in the level of education of the labour force in Québec and in Canada as a whole.<sup>1</sup> The data presented in this section is from Statistics Canada. The levels of education considered here correspond to the highest level of education attained by employed workers in a given year.<sup>2</sup> It should be noted, however, that these levels do not necessarily correspond to employment requirements.

In 2006,<sup>3</sup> although there were 626 000 more jobs than in 1990, this 19.9% growth in employment did not benefit all workers. Those with only a secondary school diploma or who did not finish secondary school had fewer jobs, while those who successfully completed postsecondary or university studies made gains. Thus, employed individuals with a university education were more numerous (by 404 000) in 2006 than in 1990, for an increase of 96.9%. Those with a postsecondary diploma held 614 000 more jobs (+ 67.3%) in 2006 than in 1990. Those with only some postsecondary studies were more likely to hold jobs in 2006 than in 1990 (3 000 more), for an increase of 1.2%. In short, individuals with some higher education held 1 018 000 more jobs in 2006 than in 1990, which by far exceeds the total increase in jobs during this period.

The situation was very different for those without a secondary school diploma or with only a secondary education. In all, these individuals held 396 000 fewer jobs in 2006 than in 1990. Thus, in 2006, those with only a secondary school diploma held 28 000 fewer jobs (- 4.4%). The situation is even more dismal for individuals without a secondary school diploma: from 1990 to 2006, they held 368 000 fewer jobs, a decrease of 39.9%.

The increase of 49 000 jobs in 2006 over 2005 benefited graduates with a postsecondary diploma or a university degree.

1. According to Statistics Canada terminology, elementary school lasts eight years (it includes elementary school and the first two years of secondary education in Québec). Postsecondary studies include all programs leading to diplomas and certificates in the trades (including the Diploma of Vocational Studies—DVS), college diplomas and certificates, and university certificates below the bachelor's level. The university sector begins with programs leading to at least a bachelor's degree.
2. The level of education attained by a person may increase over time. It is therefore possible that the same job, held by the same person, will be considered to be held by a person with a higher level of education in a given year than in an earlier year.
3. The figure for 2006 is the average of the first 11 months of that year.

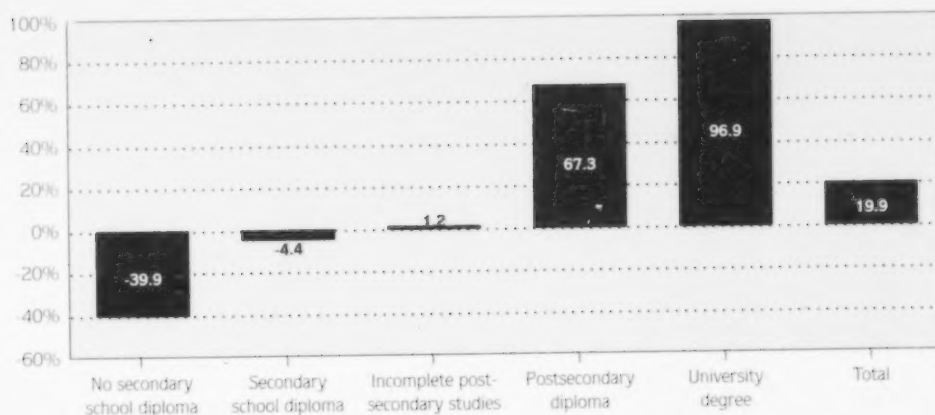
Table 6.1  
Employment trends  
in Québec, by level  
of education<sup>1</sup>  
(in thousands)

Year	No secondary school diploma	Secondary school diploma	Some postsecondary studies	Postsecondary diploma	University degree	Total
1990	922	632	258	912	417	3 140
1995	722	549	229	1 077	559	3 135
2000	633	598	277	1 242	655	3 403
2001	613	585	282	1 270	691	3 440
2002	625	596	290	1 367	693	3 570
2003	599	581	316	1 413	719	3 629
2004	592	585	312	1 437	755	3 681
2005	548	608	280	1 482	799	3 717
2006	554	604	261	1 526	821	3 766
Change from 1990 to 2006	- 39.9%	- 4.4%	1.2%	67.3%	96.9%	19.9%

Source: Statistics Canada

1. See notes at the bottom of the text.

Graph 6.1  
Employment trends  
in Québec from 1990  
to 2006, by level  
of education (%)



## 6.2 Labour Force Participation by Level of Education<sup>1</sup>

As indicated in Section 6.1, in recent years, there has been a rapid increase in the level of education of employees. In 1990, 29.4% of employees did not have a secondary school diploma, whereas in 2006,<sup>2</sup> the rate was only 14.7%. This phenomenon is not limited to Québec; it extends to Ontario and the other provinces as well. In Ontario, individuals without a diploma accounted for 26.7% of employees in 1990 and only 12.4% in 2006. In the other provinces, the rates were 24.9% in 1990 and 14.1% in 2006.

The number of individuals with only a secondary school diploma is also declining, but less quickly.

The percentage of those who started postsecondary studies but did not graduate declined everywhere, going from 8.2% to 6.9% in Québec, from 10.1% to 7.9% in Ontario and from 10.3% to 9.5% in the other provinces.

However, the number of employees with a postsecondary diploma or university degree has increased considerably. In 1990, they held approximately 40% of the jobs in each province. In 2006, the proportions were 62.3% for Québec, 58.7% for Ontario and 53.5% for the other provinces.

The growth in the employment rate of university graduates was especially rapid: in 1990, they held 13.2% of the jobs in Québec, whereas in 2006, they held more than one in five jobs (21.8%). In Ontario, this proportion is even higher, with close to one in four jobs (25.8%) and in the other provinces, it is 21.0%.

If the rates for the number of jobs held by graduates with different diplomas or degrees are compared for Québec, Ontario and the other provinces, it can be noted that Québec's situation has changed gradually from 1990 to 2006.

The percentage of jobs held by individuals without a secondary school diploma fell more rapidly in Québec than in Ontario and the other provinces. However, there is still a significant gap with respect to Ontario (2.3 percentage points) and a smaller

gap with respect to the other provinces (0.6 percentage points).

Although the proportion of employed individuals with only a secondary school diploma declined everywhere, it is lower in Québec. It should be noted, however, that it takes less time to earn a secondary school diploma in Québec than elsewhere in Canada.

The proportion of employees with a postsecondary diploma increased everywhere, but remained the highest in Québec, no doubt because the college education system is more developed in Québec.

The proportion of employees with a university degree in Québec (21.8%) currently exceeds that of the other provinces (21.0%); however, this increase was not sufficient to make up the gap with respect to Ontario (25.8%), which is now 4.0 percentage points.

**In 2006, individuals with a postsecondary diploma or university degree held more than 62% of all jobs in Québec.**

1. According to Statistics Canada terminology, postsecondary studies include all programs leading to diplomas and certificates in the trades (including the Diploma of Vocational Studies—DVS), nonuniversity college diplomas and certificates, and university certificates below the bachelor's level. The university sector begins with programs leading to at least a bachelor's degree.
2. The figure for 2006 is the average of the first 11 months of that year.

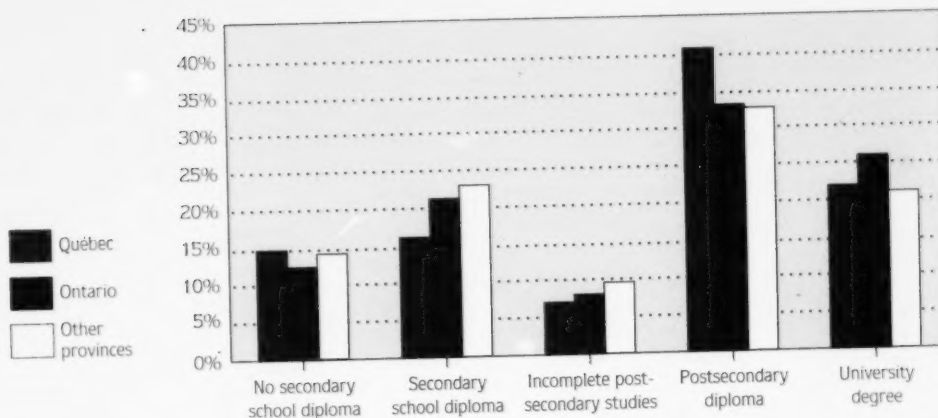
Table 6.2  
Employment by highest  
level of education:  
Québec, Ontario and  
the other provinces,  
1990 and 2006<sup>1</sup> (%)

	Québec		Ontario		Other provinces	
	1990	2006	1990	2006	1990	2006
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
No secondary school diploma	29.4	14.7	26.7	12.4	24.9	14.1
Secondary school diploma	20.2	16.0	23.0	21.1	24.3	22.9
Some postsecondary studies	8.2	6.9	10.1	7.9	10.3	9.5
Postsecondary diploma	29.0	40.5	24.0	32.9	27.1	32.5
University degree	13.2	21.8	16.2	25.8	13.4	21.0
Bachelor's degree	9.2	15.7	10.7	17.2	9.4	15.0
Higher degree	4.0	6.1	5.5	8.6	4.0	6.0

Source: Statistics Canada

1. See note at the bottom of the text.

Graph 6.2  
Distribution of  
employment,  
by highest level  
of education:  
Québec, Ontario  
and the other  
provinces, 2006  
(%)



## 6.3 Labour Market Integration of Graduates

Each year, almost 200 000 people obtain a secondary school or college diploma or a university degree. The data obtained through Quebec government *Relance* surveys provides a picture of the placement of secondary school vocational training, college technical training and university graduates a number of months after they obtain their diploma or degree.<sup>1</sup> In all, the surveys provide data about nearly 95 000 people.<sup>2</sup>

Since 2002, more than 85.0% of students with a Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS) (known as the Secondary School Vocational Diploma [SSVD] prior to 1998) found work. During the last five years, this proportion has varied little, between 85.6% and 86.9%. In 2006, it was 85.6%.

The proportion of students with an Attestation of Vocational Specialization (AVS) who are in the labour force fell from 85.1% in 2002 to 80.7% in 2006. The proportion of students with an AVS who are still in school was 11.3% in 2006, and the unemployment rate among AVS graduates, 9.8%.

In 2006, 69.8% of students who graduated from a college technical program with a Diploma of College Studies (DCS) were in the labour force. The proportion of graduates still studying was 28.1% in 2006. Finally, the unemployment rate for graduates with a DCS in technical training declined from 6.0% in 2004 to 4.5% in 2006.

In 2005, the proportion of students with a bachelor's degree entering the labour force was 71.9%; it has been falling since 2001. However, it must be noted that certain methodological changes were introduced in 2003. The unemployment rate has been climbing since 2001, going from 4.0% in 2001 to 4.9% in 2003, to stand at 5.3% in 2005.

In 2005, 78.0% of graduates with master's degrees entered the labour force, comparable to the rate of 82.3% in 2001 and of 79.9% in 2003, if certain methodological changes are taken into account.<sup>3</sup> Their unemployment rate rose from 3.7% in 2001 to 5.7% in 2005, an increase of 2.0 percentage points.

Graph 6.3 shows that the unemployment rate of graduates with a DVS and AVS has dropped slightly since 2004. The unemployment rate for graduates with a DCS in technical training was 4.5% in 2006. This rate remained very low in recent years: since 2002, it fluctuated between 4.5% and 6.0%. During the same period, the unemployment rate for the labour force as a whole in Québec, whose age, training and work experience differ considerably from those of these graduates, also remained relatively stable.

Since 2004, the unemployment rate has dropped slightly among graduates with a DVS, an AVS or a DCS in technical training.

1. Results refer to students graduating in the year indicated, approximately nine months after the completion of studies for graduates with a DVS or an AVS and roughly 10 months for graduates with a DCS (15 months for those finishing in the fall). The situation for those graduating with a bachelor's or master's degree is as of January, approximately 20 months after they earned their degree.
2. This number is valid for those years in which the three *Relance* surveys are conducted. Data about university students is published every two years, while data about secondary school and college graduates is published annually. In 2005, 34 977 university graduates were surveyed.
3. Methodological changes related to the definition of the term "employed individual" resulted in a slight decrease in 2003 in the proportion of university graduates considered employed. For more information, refer to the section dealing with the methodology of the survey *La Relance à l'université 2003* at the Ministère's Web site: <<http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/Relance/Relance.htm>> (available in French only).

Table 6.3  
Unemployment rates  
for graduates, by level  
of education and type  
of diploma or degree  
(%)

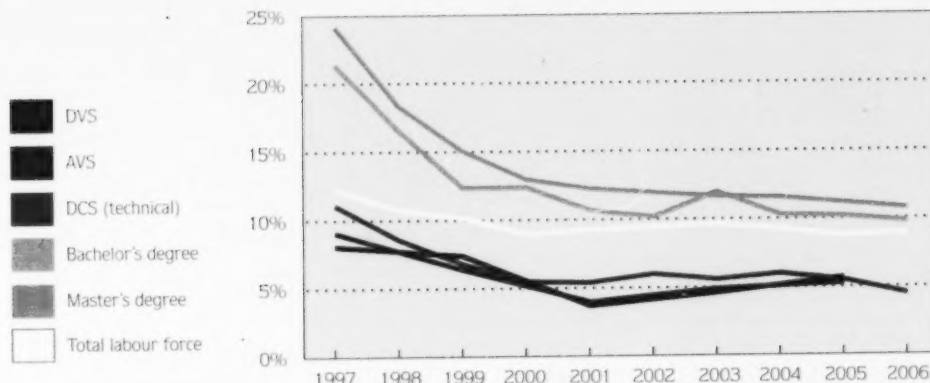
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Secondary education<sup>1</sup></b>					
DVS	12.0	11.7	11.6	11.2	10.8
AVS	10.2	12.0	10.3	10.2	9.8
<b>College<sup>1</sup></b>					
Technical training	6.0	5.6	6.0	5.5	4.5
<b>University<sup>1</sup></b>					
Bachelor's degree	–	4.9	–	5.3	–
Master's degree	–	4.6	–	5.7	–
<b>Unemployment rate in Québec<sup>2</sup></b>					
15-19-year-olds	22.0	19.8	23.3	21.2	23.7
20-24-year-olds	11.1	13.0	11.6	12.7	10.3
25-29-year-olds	8.2	9.5	8.6	7.0	8.4
Total labour force	9.5	9.7	9.3	8.8	9.0

1. Source: Relance surveys, Direction de la recherche, des statistiques et des indicateurs, Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport.  
<<http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/Relance/Relance.htm>>.

2. Data obtained from Statistics Canada. Includes the total labour force, regardless of level of education and work experience. The unemployment rates are those for March of the year in question (unadjusted data). Source: Statistics Canada, monthly labour force survey estimates (Labour Force Survey, Table 282-0001).

– There is no data for these years: the Relance survey of university graduates is conducted every two years.

Graph 6.3  
Unemployment  
rates for graduates,  
by type of diploma  
or degree (%)





## 6.4 Labour Market Integration of Secondary Vocational Training Graduates

On March 31, 2006, about nine months after graduation, 76.3% of graduates of programs leading to a Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS) were employed, as were 72.8% of graduates of programs leading to an Attestation of Vocational Specialization (AVS).

On March 31, 2006, 10.1% of DVS graduates in the class of 2004-2005 were studying and 4.2% were inactive. The proportion of individuals with a DVS who were in the labour force (employed or looking for work) was 85.6%; this rate has remained relatively stable since 2002. The unemployment rate for DVS graduates was 10.8% in 2006.

A total of 87.0% of DVS graduates were employed full-time in 2006. This rate has fluctuated little since 2002, between 86.7% and 87.2%. There is an obvious trend throughout: more men than women are employed full-time. Men were 17.9 percentage points ahead in 2006 (94.7%, compared with 76.8% for women).

Between 2002 and 2006, the correspondence between the field of study and the field of employment remained relatively stable, varying from 76.0% to 79.3% among DVS graduates working full-time. In 2006, the rate was 78.0% for women and 79.0% for men.

On March 31, 2006, 7.9% of the class of 2004-2005 who graduated from programs leading to an AVS were looking for work, 11.3% were studying and 7.9% were inactive. The number of AVS graduates in the labour force stood at 80.7% in 2006. Since 2002, the unemployment rate has fluctuated between 9.8% and 12.0%, and was 9.8% in 2006.

A total of 85.0% of AVS graduates were employed full-time in 2006. There is still a large gap between the full-time employment rate of women (76.5%) and that of men

(93.7%). The correspondence between the field of study and the field of employment among AVS graduates was 70.7% in 2006.

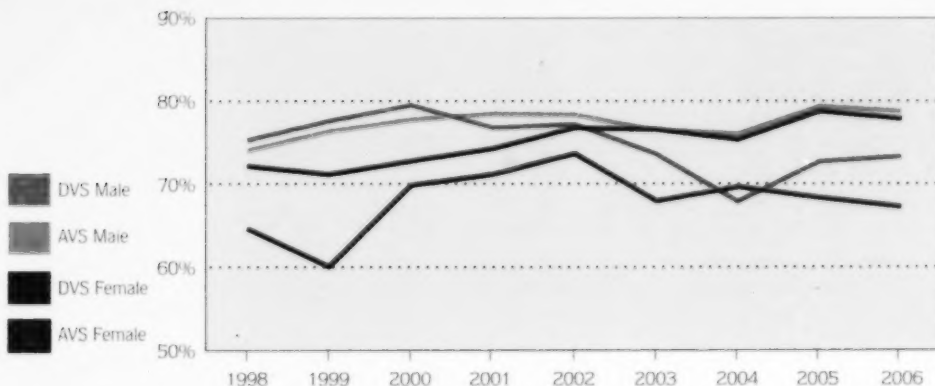
The unemployment rate for DVS graduates decreased from 12.0% in 2002 to 10.8% in 2006. The unemployment rate for AVS graduates was 9.8% in 2006.

Table 6.4  
Employment situation  
of secondary school  
vocational training  
graduates, by  
graduation class,  
as at March 31  
of the year following  
their graduation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Graduates with a DVS<sup>1</sup></b>					
Employed	76.2	76.7	75.9	77.1	76.3
Seeking employment	10.4	10.2	9.9	9.7	9.3
Studying	9.4	9.2	10.2	8.9	10.1
Inactive	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.3	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Unemployment rate	12.0	11.7	11.6	11.2	10.8
<b>Graduates with an AVS<sup>1</sup></b>					
Employed	76.4	73.7	76.8	74.1	72.8
Seeking employment	8.7	10.0	8.8	8.4	7.9
Studying	9.2	8.3	7.5	12.1	11.3
Inactive	5.7	8.0	6.9	5.4	7.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Unemployment rate	10.2	12.0	10.3	10.2	9.8

1. Source: Relance surveys of vocational training graduates, Direction de la recherche, des statistiques et des indicateurs, Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport. <<http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/Relance/Relance.htm>>.

Graph 6.4  
Proportion of DVS  
and AVS graduates  
working full-time  
in a related field of  
study, as at March 31  
of the year following  
their graduation,  
by gender (%)



## 6.5 Labour Market Integration of Graduates of College Technical Programs

The percentage of graduates of technical programs who were employed approximately 10 months after they obtained a Diploma of College Studies (DCS) was 66.7% as of March 31, 2006. That year, the proportion of male graduates who were employed was 61.3%, while the proportion of female graduates in the same position was 69.9%.

In 2006, 3.1% of graduates were looking for work, 28.1% were studying, and 2.1% were inactive. The percentage of DCS technical graduates in the labour force (either working or looking for work) was 69.8% in 2006. The unemployment rate of DCS technical graduates was 4.5% in 2006. The unemployment rate of graduates aged 24 or younger went from 6.1% in 2004 to 4.4% in 2006, the lowest unemployment rate recorded.

The percentage of students who, after obtaining a DCS in technical training the previous year, were studying on March 31 of the year in question rose from 19.6% in 2000 to 28.1% in 2006. Of those surveyed in 2006, 32.9% of men and 25.2% of women were still in school on March 31, 2006.

Most of these students, 83.3%, were in university. Of these, 89.4% were studying in a field related to the diploma earned in 2004-2005. Finally, only 5.9% of those in school on March 31, 2005, were there because they were unable to find a job. The corresponding proportions were 8.8% in 2003, 10.7% in 2004 and 7.1% in 2005.

In 2006, 85.3% of DCS technical graduates were employed full-time; this rate has remained above 85.0% since 2000. However, men are more likely to be employed full-time (90.9%) than women (82.4%). This gender gap has persisted over the years.

On March 31, 2006, 33.9% of part-time workers reported working part-time because they could not find full-time

employment, a 6.5-percentage point increase over 2005, when the rate stood at 40.4%.

The correspondence between the field of study and the field of employment for full-time workers rose from 80.9% in 2004 to 83.5% in 2006. This rate increased significantly among men, going from 74.0% in 2004 to 79.6% in 2006, while it hovered around 85.0% among women.

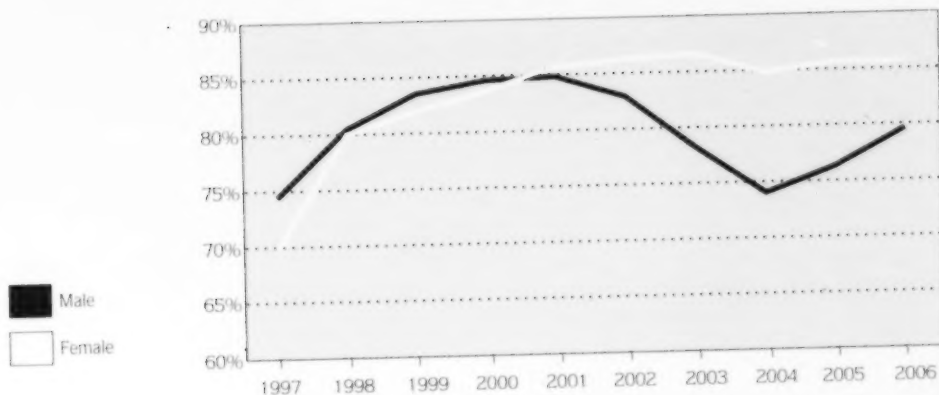
The unemployment rate among graduates with a DCS in technical training was 6.0% in 2004 and reached a low of 4.5% in 2006. Slightly more than 28% of technical training graduates continued studying the year after they earned their diploma.

Table 6.5  
Employment situation  
of graduates of college  
technical programs,  
by graduating class,  
as of March 31  
of the year following  
their graduation (%)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Graduates with a DCS<sup>1</sup></b>					
Employed	70.3	69.5	67.6	65.8	66.7
Seeking employment	4.5	4.1	4.3	3.8	3.1
Studying	23.1	24.4	26.1	27.9	28.1
Inactive	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Unemployment rate	6.0	5.6	6.0	5.5	4.5

1. Source: Relance surveys of technical training graduates. Direction de la recherche, des statistiques et des indicateurs, Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport, <<http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/Relance/Relance.htm>>.

Graph 6.5  
Proportion of DCS  
graduates of technical  
programs working full-  
time in a related field  
of study, as of March 31  
of the year following  
their graduation,  
by gender (%)





# Statistical Appendix

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Table 1

**Full-time and part-time enrollment, by level of education and sector,  
1996-1997 to 2005-2006**

	1996-1997	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Preschool (4-year-olds)	17 294	16 295	15 908	15 174	14 601	15 778	15 240	14 700	14 996	14 808
Preschool (5-year-olds)	96 087	95 303	91 513	89 223	87 297	84 624	80 967	76 832	74 801	74 123
Elementary education (youth sector)	552 482	559 279	566 372	573 102	575 862	574 274	564 559	549 073	529 860	510 340
Secondary education (youth sector)	486 696	479 740	469 250	456 148	447 937	446 491	455 467	467 594	480 319	489 054
Elementary and secondary education (adult sector) <sup>1</sup>	222 434	218 193	214 701	219 268	222 714	238 693	247 258	254 482	258 979	257 443
College <sup>2</sup>	237 523	230 725	228 715	219 211	213 427	206 373	200 772	195 797	193 227	188 549
Regular education	180 313	176 586	174 464	171 653	166 968	164 731	163 070	160 972	159 956	159 312
Adult education	57 210	54 139	54 251	47 558	46 459	41 642	37 702	34 825	33 271	29 237
University <sup>3</sup>	230 941	227 009	226 669	231 973	233 554	239 094	249 177	258 324	261 677	264 240
Undergraduate studies	187 565	183 355	183 141	187 021	187 518	189 450	195 132	201 129	202 071	203 316
Graduate studies	34 086	34 326	34 604	36 183	37 275	40 808	44 592	46 735	48 197	48 735
Postgraduate studies	9 290	9 328	8 924	8 769	8 761	8 836	9 453	10 460	11 409	12 189
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 843 457</b>	<b>1 826 544</b>	<b>1 813 128</b>	<b>1 804 099</b>	<b>1 795 392</b>	<b>1 805 327</b>	<b>1 813 440</b>	<b>1 816 802</b>	<b>1 813 859</b>	<b>1 798 557</b>

Sources: Déclaration des clientèles scolaires (DCS)

Déclaration des clientèles en formation professionnelle (DCFP)

Système d'information financière sur la clientèle adulte (SIFCA)

Système d'information et de gestion des données sur l'effectif collégial (SIGDEC)

Système de recensement des clientèles universitaires (RECU)

Gestion des données sur les effectifs universitaires (GDEU)

1. Only persons having taken courses for which credits are earned for certification purposes are included.

2. Full term. Figures for adult education exclude students enrolled in noncredit programs.

3. Full term. These figures include resident physicians and some students in college of Explorations programs. However, they exclude auditors, postdoctoral trainees and students in Explorations programs.



Table 2

**Full-time and part-time enrollment, by category of institution, language of instruction, level of education and sector, 2005-2006**

	Preschool		Elementary	Secondary	Elementary and secondary	College <sup>2</sup>		University <sup>3</sup>	Total
	4-year-olds	5-year-olds	(Youth sector)	(Youth sector)	(Adult sector) <sup>1</sup>	Regular education	Adult education		
<b>School boards</b>	<b>14 661</b>	<b>69 344</b>	<b>478 772</b>	<b>401 407</b>	<b>250 447</b>				<b>1 214 631</b>
French	13 619	61 674	424 865	355 617	224 273				1 080 048
English	750	7 123	52 770	45 789	25 938				132 370
Native languages	292	547	1 137		1 236				2 213
<b>Private institutions</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4 625</b>	<b>30 461</b>	<b>86 561</b>	<b>6 243</b>	<b>11 209</b>	<b>6 034</b>		<b>145 163</b>
French	7	3 787	24 724	78 437	5 807	6 326	1 402		120 490
English	23	838	5 737	8 124	436	2 885	627		18 670
French and English						1 998	4 005		6 003
<b>Public institutions outside the jurisdiction of the MELs</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>1 107</b>	<b>1 086</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>1 535</b>	<b>102</b>		<b>4 854</b>
French	89	115	949	947	753	1 455	102		4 410
English	10	18	109	106		80			323
Native languages	18	21	49	33					121
<b>CEGEPs and campuses</b>						<b>146 568</b>	<b>23 101</b>		<b>169 669</b>
French						122 953	18 755		141 708
English						23 615	4 346		27 961
French and English									
<b>Universities and branches</b>								<b>264 240</b>	<b>264 240</b>
French								198 440	198 440
English								65 800	65 800
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 808</b>	<b>74 123</b>	<b>510 340</b>	<b>489 054</b>	<b>257 443</b>	<b>159 312</b>	<b>29 237</b>	<b>264 240</b>	<b>1 798 557</b>
French	13 715	65 576	450 538	435 001	230 833	130 734	20 259	198 440	1 545 096
English	783	7 979	58 616	54 019	26 374	26 580	4 973	65 800	245 124
Native languages	310	568	1 185	34	236	0	0	0	2 334
French and English						1 998	4 005	0	6 003

Sources: Déclaration des clientèles scolaires (DCS)  
 Déclaration des clientèles en formation professionnelle (DCFP)  
 Système d'information financière sur la clientèle adulte (SIFCA)  
 Système d'information et de gestion des données sur l'effectif collégial (SIGDEC)  
 Gestion des données sur les effectifs universitaires (GDEU)

1. Only persons having taken courses for which credits are earned for certification purposes are included.

2. Fall term. Figures for adult education exclude students enrolled in noncredit programs.

3. Fall term. These figures include resident physicians, but exclude auditors, postdoctoral trainees and students in Explorations programs.

Table 3

**Enrollment in secondary vocational training and college technical training,  
1998-1999 to 2005-2006**

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006 <sup>p</sup>
<b>SECONDARY EDUCATION</b>	<b>94 263</b>	<b>99 884</b>	<b>95 991</b>	<b>99 063</b>	<b>101 040</b>	<b>104 645</b>	<b>108 838</b>	<b>99 893</b>
Under 20 years of age <sup>2</sup>	26 476	26 031	25 514	25 480	24 923	25 580	26 257	25 458
20 years of age or over <sup>3</sup>	67 787	73 853	70 477	73 583	76 117	79 065	82 581	74 435
<b>Regular paths:</b>								
<b>DVS (SSVD), SSVC, AVS, AVE</b>	<b>77 127</b>	<b>75 890</b>	<b>76 559</b>	<b>79 395</b>	<b>80 288</b>	<b>84 552</b>	<b>88 156</b>	<b>84 169</b>
Under 20 years of age <sup>2</sup>	25 208	24 623	24 343	24 014	23 232	23 847	24 530	23 910
20 years of age or over <sup>3</sup>	51 919	51 267	52 216	55 351	57 056	60 705	63 626	60 259
<b>Other programs</b>	<b>17 136</b>	<b>23 994</b>	<b>19 432</b>	<b>19 668</b>	<b>20 752</b>	<b>20 093</b>	<b>20 682</b>	<b>15 724</b>
Under 20 years of age <sup>2</sup>	1 268	1 408	1 171	1 436	1 691	1 733	1 727	1 548
20 years of age or over <sup>3</sup>	15 868	22 586	18 261	18 232	19 061	18 360	18 955	14 176
<b>COLLEGE EDUCATION</b>	<b>126 088</b>	<b>121 769</b>	<b>119 941</b>	<b>116 510</b>	<b>111 001</b>	<b>105 901</b>	<b>102 683</b>	<b>98 609</b>
Diploma of College Studie (DCS - technical)	90 442	88 964	87 500	86 836	84 685	81 566	80 076	78 218
Certificat d'études collégiales (CEC)	60	16						
Attestation of College Studies (ACS)	35 586	32 788	32 441	29 674	26 316	24 335	22 607	20 391
Diplôme de perfectionnement de l'enseignement collégial (DPEC)			1					

Sources: Déclaration des clientèles scolaires (DCS)

Déclaration des clientèles en formation professionnelle (DCFP)

Système d'information financière sur la clientèle adulte (SIFCA)

Système d'information et de gestion des données sur l'effectif collégial (SIGDEC)

p: Preliminary figures

DVS: Diploma of Vocational Studies (or SSVD: Secondary School Vocational Diploma, prior to 1998); SSVC: Secondary School Vocational Certificate; AVS: Attestation of Vocational Specialization; AVE: Attestation of Vocational Education

1. Only persons having taken courses for which credits are earned for certification purposes are included. Persons enrolled in more than one program in the same year are counted only once.

2. Includes students 20 years of age or over in the youth sector.

3. For the adult sector only.

Table 4

**Personnel in school boards and CEGEPs by job category,  
based on full-time equivalents,<sup>1</sup> 1997-1998 to 2004-2005**

	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
<b>School boards</b>	<b>104 462</b>	<b>106 630</b>	<b>108 772</b>	<b>111 464</b>	<b>113 184</b>	<b>115 751</b>	<b>116 203</b>	<b>115 590</b>
<b>Youth and adult sectors</b>								
Teaching staff	70 366	71 152	71 288	71 918	71 984	72 820	72 606	71 593
Administrative staff	1 159	1 118	1 080	1 076	1 079	1 097	1 143	1 165
School principals	3 528	3 567	3 661	3 713	3 723	3 772	3 807	4 182
Managerial staff	671	663	685	680	698	721	730	735
Nonteaching professionals	3 898	3 897	4 003	4 208	4 453	4 810	4 926	4 991
Support staff	24 840	26 233	28 055	29 869	31 247	32 531	32 991	32 924
<b>CEGEPs</b>	<b>19 570</b>	<b>19 692</b>	<b>19 869</b>	<b>20 491</b>	<b>20 636</b>	<b>20 744</b>	<b>20 609</b>	<b>20 319</b>
<b>Regular education and adult education</b>								
Teaching staff	12 699	12 892	12 950	13 381	13 355	13 338	13 214	13 005
Administrative staff	583	595	622	651	690	717	724	640
Managerial staff	245	230	232	233	234	237	225	306
Nonteaching professionals	964	964	1 017	1 086	1 137	1 196	1 185	1 178
Support staff	5 079	5 011	5 048	5 140	5 220	5 256	5 261	5 190

Sources: *Personnel des commissions scolaires (PERCOS II)*

*Système d'information sur le personnel des organismes collégiaux (SPOC-RFA)*

1. All personnel activities carried out during the school year are included in the calculation of full-time equivalents for each job category.

Table 5

**Number of diplomas awarded, by level of education and type of diploma,  
1996 to 2005**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Secondary<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>111 762</b>	<b>109 199</b>	<b>107 050</b>	<b>107 965</b>	<b>105 530</b>	<b>102 543</b>	<b>101 479</b>	<b>100 337</b>	<b>103 662</b>	<b>105 646</b>
General education	86 451	80 289	77 315	76 992	73 482	71 799	68 492	66 498	68 352	68 868
Vocational training	25 311	28 910	29 735	30 973	32 048	30 744	32 987	33 839	35 310	36 778
<b>College</b>	<b>42 363</b>	<b>44 906</b>	<b>45 395</b>	<b>46 410</b>	<b>51 023</b>	<b>52 750</b>	<b>53 655</b>	<b>52 852</b>	<b>52 299</b>	<b>50 993</b>
DCS (pre-university education)	24 430	25 941	25 177	24 648	24 115	23 683	23 277	23 424	23 320	23 044
DCS (technical training)	16 174	16 748	16 814	17 631	17 986	17 998	18 732	18 165	17 970	16 931
DCS without mention	152	7	1				1	4		
ACS, CEC and DPEC <sup>2</sup>	1 607	2 210	3 403	4 131	8 922	11 069	11 645	11 259	11 009	11 018
<b>University<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>55 184</b>	<b>53 277</b>	<b>50 778</b>	<b>50 726</b>	<b>50 563</b>	<b>51 378</b>	<b>54 459</b>	<b>58 855</b>	<b>62 358</b>	<b>64 366</b>
Bachelor's degree	29 602	28 894	27 475	28 284	27 822	27 973	28 897	29 818	31 553	32 117
Master's degree	6 547	6 514	6 727	6 814	7 468	7 692	7 946	9 003	9 515	10 002
Doctorate	1 087	1 143	1 231	1 170	1 165	1 094	1 036	1 134	1 217	1 278
Certificates and diplomas	17 948	16 726	15 345	14 458	14 108	14 429	16 139	17 840	18 931	19 580
Attestations and microprograms	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	190	441	1 060	1 142	1 389

Sources: Système de sanction des études appliquée au ministère de l'Éducation (SESAME)  
 Sanction des adultes en formation générale (SAGE)  
 Système d'information et de gestion des données sur l'effectif collégial (SIGDEC)  
 Système de recensement des clientèles universitaires (RECU)  
 Gestion des données sur les effectifs universitaires (GDEU)

DCS: Diploma of College Studies; ACS: Attestation of College Studies; CEC: Certificat d'études collégiales (certificate of college studies); DPEC: Diplôme de perfectionnement de l'enseignement collégial (diploma of advanced college studies)

1. From 1996-1997 to 2005-2006

2. Since 1994, there have been no new enrollments in programs leading to CECs and DPECs. ACSs are counted starting in 2001.

3. Excludes diplomas awarded by the Collège militaire Royal de Saint-Jean.

Table 6

**Schooling rates,<sup>1</sup> by age, gender, level of education and attendance status, 2004-2005 (%)**

	Preschool and Elementary Education	Secondary		College		University		Total		All attendance statuses
		Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	
<b>4-year-olds</b>										
Male	20.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.6	0.0	20.6
Female	20.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.8	0.0	20.8
Total	20.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.7	0.0	20.7
<b>5-year-olds</b>										
Male	96.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	96.2	0.0	96.2
Female	98.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	98.8	0.0	98.8
Total	97.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	97.4	0.0	97.4
<b>15-year-olds</b>										
Male	0.0	96.3	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	96.3	0.4	96.8
Female	0.0	97.9	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	98.0	0.1	98.2
Total	0.0	97.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	97.2	0.3	97.4
<b>16-year-olds</b>										
Male	0.4	90.1	3.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.0	3.5	95.5
Female	0.2	91.8	2.5	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	94.4	2.5	97.0
Total	0.3	90.9	3.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	93.2	3.0	96.2
<b>17-year-olds</b>										
Male	0.7	39.9	12.0	31.2	0.1	0.5	0.0	72.3	12.1	84.4
Female	0.5	30.7	10.2	47.4	0.1	1.0	0.0	79.5	10.3	89.8
Total	0.6	35.4	11.1	39.1	0.1	0.7	0.0	75.8	11.2	87.0
<b>18-year-olds</b>										
Male	0.6	24.0	11.7	34.0	0.4	3.3	0.1	62.0	12.2	74.2
Female	0.4	17.2	9.2	51.3	0.3	5.1	0.2	74.0	9.7	83.7
Total	0.5	20.7	10.5	42.5	0.3	4.2	0.2	67.9	11.0	78.9
<b>19-year-olds</b>										
Male	0.5	17.2	9.1	24.6	1.1	10.7	0.5	53.0	10.7	63.7
Female	0.4	12.6	6.5	34.0	1.4	19.7	0.6	66.7	8.5	75.2
Total	0.4	14.9	7.8	29.2	1.3	15.1	0.5	59.7	9.6	69.3

1. Schooling rates are calculated by dividing the school population of a given age on September 30, 2004, by the population of the same age on the same date. The rates for 4-year-olds and 5-year-olds differ from the results published in Section 2.2 (see notes on this subject).

Table 6 (cont.)

**Schooling rates,<sup>1</sup> by age, gender, level of education and attendance status, 2004-2005 (%)**

	Preschool and Elementary Education	Secondary		College		University		Total		All attendance statuses
		Full- time	Part- time	Full- time	Part- time	Full- time	Part- time	Full- time	Part- time	
<b>20-24-year-olds</b>										
Male	0.3	7.7	5.4	7.1	1.0	15.2	3.2	30.3	9.7	40.0
Female	0.3	6.3	3.7	9.3	1.2	22.5	5.0	38.3	9.9	48.2
Total	0.3	7.0	4.6	8.2	1.1	18.7	4.1	34.2	9.8	44.0
<b>25-29-year-olds</b>										
Male	0.3	3.3	3.3	1.4	0.4	5.1	3.6	10.1	7.2	17.3
Female	0.4	3.4	2.1	2.2	0.6	5.4	5.8	11.4	8.6	20.0
Total	0.4	3.4	2.7	1.8	0.5	5.2	4.7	10.7	7.9	18.6
<b>30-39-year-olds</b>										
Male	0.4	2.0	2.3	0.5	0.2	1.6	2.1	4.5	4.6	9.0
Female	0.5	2.3	1.7	0.9	0.4	1.4	3.2	5.1	5.2	10.3
Total	0.4	2.2	2.0	0.7	0.3	1.5	2.6	4.8	4.9	9.7
<b>40-49-year olds</b>										
Male	0.2	0.9	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.0	1.6	2.4	4.0
Female	0.3	1.1	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.4	1.8	2.1	3.1	5.2
Total	0.2	1.0	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.8	2.8	4.6
<b>50-59-year olds</b>										
Male	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.6	1.0	1.6
Female	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.7	1.3	2.1
Total	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.8
<b>60-year-olds +</b>										
Male	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5
Female	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.7
Total	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.6

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